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John Lyttle on Madonna and child page 18

Education+

TOMORROW: 28-page pull-out packed with higher education appointments



The Tabloid **Bridget Jones:** bad hair day

Does our whole view of England come from Rubens?



inting will be challenged by a new exhi-

£100,000 to devote one of its soon to

BSE fear for millions of **British pets**

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

A change in government poliry suggests that millions of British domestic cats are being fed BSE-contaminated food. A minister has announced a hon on all production of pet food in my building used for the manufacture of livestock feed.

Angela Browning, an agriculture minister, has confirmed to the Commons in a written reply that mammalian meat and bone meal (MBM) - powdered residue from culled and rendered cattle - is used in pet food. But she has also told Aartyn Jones, a microbiologist and Labour MP: "Because of our concerns that petfood containing MBM might present a possible risk of cross-contamnation of livestock feed, new measures to prevent this were introduced on 1 August."

"The Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy order 1996 now prohibts the production of this naterial [pet food containing MBM] on the same premises as livestock feed unless this takes place in a separate building and there is no contact with equipment or vehicles used in the production of livestock feed

Mr Jones said last night: This is an astounding revelation. This stuff is so risky that hey are not even allowed to bury it. Instead, they are getting rid of it by passing it on to petfood manufacturers.

every cat food, as a filler; duck, liver, tuna, you name it. The Government is quite clearly trying to get out of a hole by getting rid of it in this way."

A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said last night that there was no risk to household pets from MBM in petfood because they are meat-eaters".

But a Commons select committee investigation into BSE was told in April that cats had tested positive for a form of spongiform encephalopathy.



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The committee was also told that while the high-risk specified bovine material - such as spinal chord - would be incinerated, sides of meat will be rendered into meat and bone meal which will then be disposed of, either landfill or incineration. There was no mention of MBM being used in pet food.

Mr Jones asked Mrs Browning earlier this week how much MBM from boving sources was being used in pet food, and the minister told him that no figures were available. The spokesman said: "You will have to ask the manufacturers."

But the August ban on joint pet food and livestock feed ufacture also required "that all movements and use of MBM have to be recorded and accompanied by appropriate documentation."

mayed by the ministry response They have claimed from day one of this BSE crisis that it was caused by meat and bone meal. We also know that cats can be infected. He added: "If the risk is so great, why are they feed-

Flangun Dan in sight as MPs back parents

Chief Political Correspondent

The Government was warned it would defeated if it fails to deliver a total ban on the private ownership of handguns today in the face of public demands for action and the real threat of being outflanked by Labour after the Dunblane massacre.

Ministers are believed to be preparing a complete ban on all semi-automatic weapons of the type used at Dunblane, going further than the Cullen report inter the murders of 16 children anthe teacher, to head off the deminds for tougher action.

The action was agreed by a

Cabinet committee chaired by John Major and the details will be announced in statements by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, and Michael Forsyth. Secretary of State for Scotland. It could allow .22 calibre

tion, signed by two Tory MPs, Hugh Dykes and Robert Hughes, was tabled to bolster those m the Government including plete ban on all handguns, with the threat that it could be defeated if it bows to the pressure.

weapons in gun clubs but ban most other handguns.
A cross-party Commons mo-

from the gun lobby.

The motion called for "im-

handguns to the status of prohibited weapons whose use will be restricted to those who can demonstrate a professional need such as the military and the police"...

Mr Dukes, MP for Harrow Mr Louces for not call tow East, saids. There is a very large majority in the House for com-plete prohibing A partial ban would create a leophole he

rned. "That is the really sick-making consequence of this matter. It is an unrivalled opportunity. for us in Britain to get away from the American gun culture which is beginning to take root

toughen its policy and threaten a total ban on all handguns. In May, Labour said it favoured a ban with the exception of the .22. Olympic-calibre pistols but Tony Blair agreed a change of

policy in a meeting at West-minster with Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, and George Robertson, shadow Softish secretary. Scauces at Westminster said

the pincer movement on the Cabinet could lead to a tougher-than-expected response to the report by Lord Cullen.

The Government faced a powerful backlash in the difficult meeting yesterday and

summer when it was disclosed that six Tory members of the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs had refused to

back a total ban. The Prime Minister and Mr Forsyth have been moved by the tragedy at Dunblane to back a ban on handguns. It was expected that Lord Cullen would recommend a total ban on handgins in private hands but allowing the possession of handguns in gun clubs providing there was more rigid security, including metal detectors, and tighter restrictions on licensing

Ministers had a long and

there were differences of opinion over the practicalities of banning handguns, but Whitehall sources said last night that they had emerged in full agreement at the action to be taken. The statement will be definitive and it will be clear. They are confident they can carry col-leagues and the country with

them," said a source. Legislation to implement the ban on handguns will be introduced in the Queen's Speech next week. Lord Cullen was said to have taken a pragmatic approach, and has been careful to highlight the difficulties in handguns to be

Belgium erupts

Katherine Butler

A surge of spontaneous public emotion swept across normally placid Belgium yesterday after the sacking of the crusading judge who led the inquiry into the country's child sex and murder scandals. This triggered strikes in cities and towns throughout the country, protests angrily directed at the state itself.

The government insisted that the removal of Judge Jean-Marc Connerotte, a national hero since his investigating team rescued two children from child rapist Marc Dutroux's cellar in August, will not deflect the inquiries.

But it seems to have been the last straw for a people sickened by the Dutroux case and whose confidence in the institutions that govern them has been shattered by it and a series of cortop of the Antwerp law courts.

Connerotte, known affectionately as
tuption scandals.

Factories and offices were at a standstill as thousands of employees stopped birk in protest at the judge's sacking. Ablic transport came to a halt. Seven andred workers at a Volkswagen plant ser Brussels marched on the city's Palais de Justice, the imposing symbol of the judiciary in the centre of town. littidreds of demonstrators staged a sit- a small gift.

in there, some in tears, other vowing to go on hunger strike. "He was the only person we trusted. The workers have no confidence in anyone else," said union representative Hedwin De Clercq who

led the march: Firemen in Charleroi, the birthplace of Dutroux, turned their water cannon on the city's court building to "clean up the judiciary".

In nearby Liege, the fire brigade sounded the sirens of their engines in front of the city's courts and hundreds of work colleagues of Gino Russo, father of one of Dutroux's eight-year-old victims, walked off the factory floor. Busdrivers throughout Wallonia, Belgium's French speaking region, abandoned their vehicles in the streets. In Dutchspeaking Flanders, supporters of Judge Connerotte staged a sit-in on the steps

"le petit juge" was held by the High Court on Monday to have compromised his impartiality when he attended a fundraising event organised by a support group for victims of child sex abuse. He was targeted by lawyers defending Dutroux after being photographed eating a free bowl of spagnetti and accepting

Minister faces in judge's defence debate on conduct

Political Correspondent

David Willetts, a Treasury minister, faces an emergency debate in the Commons today on allegations that he tried to influence a select committee inquiry into the cash-for-questions scandal.

Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, yesterday announced that the allegations were serious enough to warrant discussion on the floor of the House. MPs are expected to agree in a short debate to an investigation by the Standards and Privileges Committee.

Just before the Speaker's surprise statement, the Prime Minister had been forced onto the defensive over the allegations by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, who demanded: "Is it right for the Government to seek to interfere in or manipulate the outcome of a select committee of Parliament?" John Major replied: "There is nobody in this House more concerned than I am that the matter should be

properly investigated." Mr Willetts, the Paymaster General, is said to have canvassed ways of playing down the cash-for-questions affairs with the chairman of the committee investigating them, Sir Geoffrey Johnson-

Smith. According to a note obtained by The Guardian in the preparation of its defence against a now-abandoned libel action brought by Neil Hamilton, the for-mer trade minister, Mr Willetts floated the possibility of "exploiting the good Tory majority" on the committee to ensure the issue was dealt with as quick-

Or, it was apparently suggested, the committee could decide to defer any investigation citing Mr Hamilton's pending libel action - which is what the committee's Tory majority decided.

Mr Willetts has said the note has been taken out of context, and last night issued a statement welcoming Ms Boothroyd's decision. She told the Commons that Andrew Miller, Labour MP for Ellesmere Port and Neston, had written to her about allegations that "improper pressure was brought to bear on the Select Committee on Members' Interests in 1994".

A motion was being drafted last night by Mr Miller - a loyal Labour backbencher acting in concert with the whips office. The motion is likely simply to suggest that Mr Willetts has a case to answer, and that the issue should be referred to the Standards Committee. Andrew Marz, page 17

Hussein returns

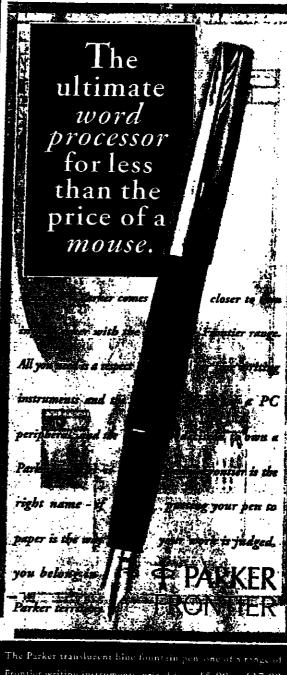
King Hussein, with Yasser Arafat, returned to the West Bank for the first time since the Jordanian army was defeated by

Media mogul Rupert Murdoch is planning to use sport as a "battering ram" for the expansion of his global pay television

Murdoch's weapon

CONTENTS

Business & City	.19-24
Comment	
Foreign News	.11-14
Gazette	18
Home News	2-10
Law report	18
Leading articles, letters .	
Shares	
Sport	24-28
Obituaries	
Unit trusts	19
The Tabloid	
Art reviews	27
Bridget Jones	3



There is not normally a big turnout for Environment ques tions. Why should there be? Normally all you get is Labour whingeing about bicycles, and Tory point-scoring about how are all run by Blair-people (as, of course, are the best, and the ones in the middle).

But barely had the doors opened to admit the hoi polloi, than MPs found themselves competing for scarce space all across the green baize. The average bench in the House sits 15 comfortably, 17 with a squeeze, and 18 in severe discomfort. But that discomfort is not shared equally. Those at the end of the row suffer dispro-



DAVID AARONOVITCH

portionately, as those close to abour veteran, Peter Shore

Mr Shore, like the regular customer of a down-at-heel neighbourhood trattoria, has a space which Luigi or Marco him, even should a coach party turn up unexpectedly. But yes-

terday, Mr Shore's favourite aisle spot being occupied, he made use of the simple expedishment. It is a mooring in between Mr Shore and Mr Hardy. But, like a rearms shunting car accident, the furent of sitting on the lap of the man who was sitting in it - David Winnick, Mr Winnick quickly realised that two elderly male members sharing the same seat was neither dignified, nor likely to reinforce the family values ge, as delivered in South Africa by his leader. So he shoved the man next to him, in-

dicating that if everyone were to move up equally, then all could have a seat (albeit a small one). So his neighbour (Peter Hardy, I think) pushed the man to his right, and one of Mr. Winnick's buttocks (try not to say this too quickly) found a

ther away they were from Mr Winnick, the less the movement from his colleagues. By the time it reached Greville Janner, sitting in the centre of the row, all momentum had been lost.

While Mr Winnick scrunched himself into a space hardly more than six inches across - his ungrounded buttock pushed up under his shoulder - Mr Janner stretched his legs wide apart, and sauggled into the upholstery. A better paradigm for the difficulties of legislating for New Labour morality could hardly be imagined.

leaders, whose contrasting backgrounds and styles are thought by the Conservatives to favour them in some bizarre way. The Tory side is led by Blokey Major (or Man In Pub), the boring but friendly gay who engages you in optimistic conversation about sport (he once scored a half-century), the weather (usually good in his neck of the woods), the success of his electric pelmet business, the University of Life (which he attended), and who would buy you a drink if he had only managed to get to a cash dispenser in time. You what? Oh, how

kind, mine's a G&T Thursty

Facing him is the well-born Bishop of Sedgeffeld, who bleeds for the neglected children and mouses seathe loss of comminal values and ries. Tambouring is his hand, Jesus in his heartifle poster out to heal, but with a sword. Two mineral waters, but he is limited agonised over sincipal passibilities agonised over sincipal passibilities cast on its heartifle to offer sincipal passibilities cast on its heartifle to offer sincipal passibilities. Facing him is the well-born

Blokey sold a long shaggy dog story about how much he'd spent on hospitals and dentists. All the while Mr Winnick sat naci winced, eloquent/testimony

significant shorts

Care home abuse victims urged to come forward

A national appeal for children who were abused while in care in North Wales was launched yesterday by the judicial imbanai set up to investigate the abuse.

It is estimated that up to 200 or more young people alleging abuse will want to give evidence to the tribunal and 70 are already understood to have been in contact with lawyers prior. The tribunal yesterday granted a mimber of people legal representation at the hearings

which begin taking evidence in the new year and are expected to last for 12 months. Six former police officers will have legal representation, as well as a number of care workers. Sir Ronald Waterhouse

chairman of the judicial triburnal, only the fourth of its kind in 30 years, told a prelimi nary hearing yesterday that he was inviting anyone with infor-mation to contact the tribunal via the Solicitor to the Tribuna PO Box 13, Deeside, CH5 3ZR or by telephoning 0800 320321.

The tribunal was set up by the Welsh Secretary, William Hague, and its task includes inating the abuse of children in care in the former county council areas of Clwyd ad Gwynedd since 1974. It will

also look at whether agencies and authorities assponsible for child care could have prevent-ed abuse or detected it earlier.

Retrial for man accused of robbing

Salvation Army A financial adviser accused of ting £1.2m from the Salvahidd Army is to face a retrial.

A new hearing was ordered esterday after the Southwark Crown Court jury trying Smart Ford, 45, cleared him of two of the 23 counts of theft he had originally faced, but failed to reach verdicts on the

Mr Ford, of Finchity, north London, dénies all the charges and says he always acted in the Salvation Army's best interests.

Beef sales never likely to make full recovery

Beef consumption in Britain is never likely to return to levels prior to the breaking of the mad cow crisis on 20 March. Douglas Hogg, the Minister for Agriculture, said yesterday.

Mr Hogg's unscripted admis sion at a trade hanch was the more surprising as the beef in dustry itself is "cautiously uptimistic" that sales are retur to near-normal. It was disclosed on Monday that more than 300 schools in North Yorkshire are putting beef back

on the menu. Describing BSE as a "dark shadow" over the farming and food industry, Mr Hogg inkl the British Meat Manufacturers' Association: "I cannot say by how much, but I believe that there is likely to be a permanent decline in beef eating as a result of what has happened."

Beef consumption plummet ed after the admission of a possible link between BSE and its human equivalent, CID, but it is now back to within 15 per cent of normal. Consumers remain stry particularly of cheap-er cuts, minor and manufactured beef products. Stephen Goodwin

Missing girl found safe

A 10-year-old girl was being in terviewed by specially trained police after disappearing for 48 nours with her family's kidger. Am-Marie Radbourne was reunited with her mother Alison at their home in Paignton, Devon, after being spotted near Exeter yesterday with 51-year-old Paul Husbands by two Ministry of Defence policemen.

They were walking by the side of the road about half a mile from Devon and Cornwall Mr Husbands was accested on suspicion of abducting Anna.
Marie, and was being ques-

boned at Torquay police Ann-Marie, and Mr Husbands, who had been lodging with the family for two months. vanished after saying they were setting out for a coastal walk at

Anti-meat adverts criticised

The Vegetarian Society is criticised today by the Advertising Standards Authority for an "alarmist and denigratory" campaign against meat.
One of the advertisements

showed the back view of a bull and carried the caption "If you eat burgers, here's a couple of half pounders you might recognise". It suggested that parts of the body, including testicles, feet and the rectum, were frequently found in meat products and that meat had been linked to a range of diseases. But the ASA, said use of the word "frequently" was not justified and there was no causal link be-

tween meat and disease. The second advertisement claimed various drugs, including one linked to cancer, were widely used in rearing. The ASA ruled the advertisers had not shown the drugs were "widely used" or that there was a causai link with cancer.

Boy dies in fall from school window

A 13-year-old boy died of head injuries yesterday after falling from a third-floor mindow at his school in Edinburgh. Craig McLennan, a secondyear pupil, fell from the window during an art class at Currie

Elizabeth Maginois, Edinburgh's education committee convenor said: "As far as we are aware it was a normal art class. The teacher went over to a cupboard to get something from it, there were some screams and the next thing the teacher knew the child was out the window. We don't know the

A police spokeswoman said inquiries were continuing and a report would be sent to the procurator fiscal.

Albert Hall to stage 'Carmen'

The Royal Albert Hall is to stage an arena production of Carmon next February, the month when Eric Clapton usu-

ally performs at the venue. Classical promoter Raymond Gubbay and the Royal Albert Hall are mounting a co-production of the opera, following their successful La Boheme at the same venue last year.

Eric Clapton is taking a break from his residency to go into the recording studio. Carmen will be directed by Frank Dunlop who is currently directing Cliff Richard in a musical version of Wathering

Heights.
Mr Gubbay said yesterday
will be that the new Carmen will be "extremely sexy". He also said it would be performed in English, as the amount of spoken dialogue made a foreign kan-guage production unsuitable for an areoa performance in front of a 4,000 strong audience. Tickets prices will be kept below £40. David Lister

Solicitors reject Law Society split

Solicitors your ever whelmingly in a postal buildt against a proposal postal buildt against a proposal postal to I aw Society's regularity and baide union functions.

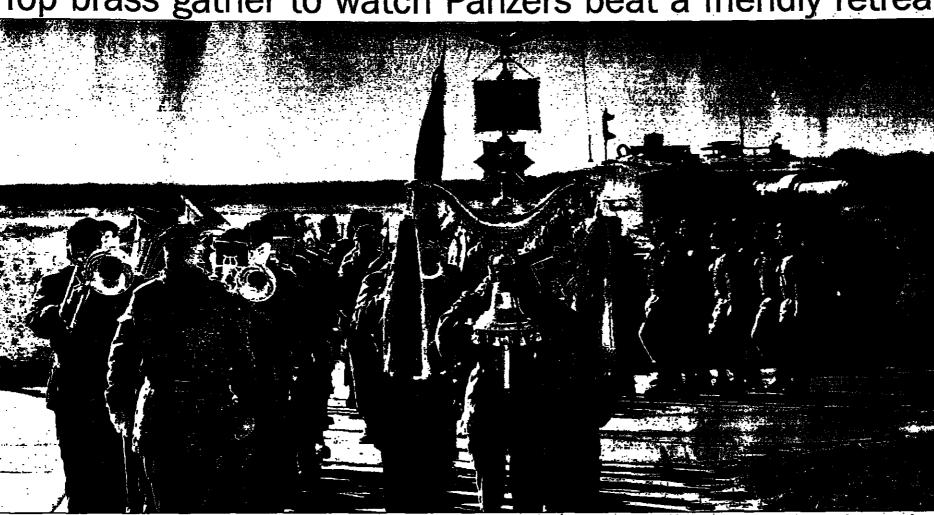
The proposal promoted by The proposal foromoted by 3 Anthony Bogan of the break-away Solicitons' Association, was defeated by 14,199 votes to 8,881. Only 29 & per cent of the 81,589 solicitors in England & Wales voted. Tony Gurling, the socially a president, said the proposit had now lifest defeated three times, in the presidential election, at the annual general meeting and in a ballot of the meeting and in a ballot of the whole profession. "It is time to draw a line under this divisive

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Top brass gather to watch Panzers beat a friendly retreat



nbrokeshire as they and their Leopard tanks true off 270,00 shells Photograph: David Rose Troops from the 14th Panzer Division parading yesterday with their schellenbaum (a 7ft high set of chimes) at Castlemartin in Pen prepare to leave the British Army base. Allies under Nato, nearly 85,000 German soldiers have used the property of the control of t

Parole Board attacks Howard

JASON BENNETTO

The Parole Board yesterday became the latest organisation to attack the Home Secretary's tough sentencing proposals which it argues will put the public at risk

from dangerous criminals. In a strongly worded condemnation of Michael Howard's plans for persistent criminals, the board said that the proposals made reoffending more likely and would "preju-dice the safety of the public".

board's annual report, follows widespread criticism from the judiciary, opposition groups, and penal reformers.

Mr Howard is expected to publish a Bill in the next few weeks which proposes tougher

sentencing on repeat offenders. The board is concerned about plans to abolish automatic release for prisoners serving less than four years after completing half their sentence and the removal of discretionary parole for long term

The comments, which were offenders. In future, prisoners published yesterday in the would get 15 to 20 per cent deducted from their sentence only if they behave well.

The board concludes: "We believe that the proposals will lead to an abandonment of [the] rehabilitation process, replacing [an effective] system with one which will be worse in almost every respect. This will result in poorer protection for the public. The board strongly believes that the Government will be making a serious, and potentially dangerous mistake."



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MINICAL

Britain's top military job

Defence Correspondent

A former SAS officer is taking over Britain's top military job next April, when Britain's last Field Marshal retires. General Sir Charles Guthrie, head of the Army, will be Chief of Defence Staff, Britain's top ser-viceman, when Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge retires.

His appointment after a prolonged contest with the head of the Navy, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, marks a striking victory for the Army over the Navy and RAF, which for much of recent history have been more glamorous and seen as more crucial

to British strategic priorities.
The Ministry of Defence said it had not yet decided who will be the new head of the Army. General Sir Michael Rose, former UN commander in Bosnia and also an SAS officer, is clearly in the running, but service sources yesterday said the less flamboyant General Sir Roger Wheeler, head of UK Land Command, was more likely because he was "a safe pair of hands".

Sir Peter Inge took over the post of CDS in March 1994, after the resignation of Marshal of the RAF, Sir Peter Harding, who was disgraced in a sex scandal. But unlike previous holders of Britain's top military post, Sir Charles will not be pro-moted to "five-star" rank, which was abolished last summer. He will remain a general, though first among equals, a reflection of the shrinking of Britain's

armed forces. General Guthrie, 57, will be Britain's senior service officer, in charge of the Navy, Army and RAF. The head of the Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, has spent longer in the job than normal, because of the early death of his predecessor, Air Chief Manshal Sir John Thompson. Sir Peter has also served for longer than expected, following Sir Peter Harding's premature exit.

Welsh Guards in 1959, and the SAS in 1966, serving for four years in Aden, the Persian Gulf, Malaysia and East Africa. After Staff College and service in Cyprus and London, he became commander of the Welsh Guards in 1977, serving in Berlin and Northern Ireland. His service has followed a

fairly conventional pattern, commanding 4th Armoured Brigade in Germany in the ear-1980s and 1st British Corps in 1989-92, in the last stages of the Cold War. He was appointed Chief of General Staff on 15 March 1994.

Navy sources last night said they were disappointed, and that they believed the Government underestimates the importance of the maritime ension of strategy.

MoD sources said General Guthrie was selected on the basis of operational experience, leadership, "international acu-men" and "qualities of impar-tiality" in dealing with matters affecting all three services.

Evicted eco-villagers pledge to fight on for Guinness site

General Guthrie joined the

continue their environmental battle with the brewer Guinness over the future of a derelict site in London, after being evicted

from the plot in a dawn raid. About 50 protesters were removed from the "eco-village" in Wandsworth, south-west London, after 12 bailiffs broke down the barricades, pulled people off roof-tops and dragged them from trees as more than 100 police officers stood by. One woman was questioned over an alleged assault and another environmental campaigner was taken to hospital with a minor head injury sustained during his removal from a 15st-high makeshift

Security guards bired by Guinness were last night guard-

occupied again. Several trees were chopped down to restrict

But the campaign group in charge of the protest. The Land is Ours, said the battle to secure the 13-acre site beside the River Thames, nicknamed "Pure Genius" after the Guinness slogan, would continue to save it for community use or low-cost

George Monbiot, a group spokesman, said: "In many ways, we feel a sense of triumph, the campaign has been a great success. It has been five-and-ahalf months since we moved on to the land. We've also succeeded in pushing a lot of issues up the political agenda, such as dereliction in our cities."

eviction for several hours after climbing on top of the main 20st, make-shift structure in the centre of the camp, as well as on to a gantry leading to a disused jetty. The bailiffs, enforcing a High Court writ, used cranes

and ladders to reach them. The "eco-villagers" set up home in May to protest at Guinness's plans to develop the former distillery site into a Safeway supermarket, with houses and riverside walk, and to prompte employment gen-erating uses. The group said planning permission should not be granted for the site.

A Guinness spokeswoman said the "squatters" would not change the company's plans to develop the site if it was granted planning permission.

المتكذا من الأصل

Neil fired because of Murdoch's TV interests

لفكذا من المذعل

Story on Pergau dam affair upset proprietor's plans for Asia channel CHRIS BLACKHURST

Andrew Neil was dismissed as editor of the Sunday Times with a £1m pay-off because Rupert Murdoch, the owner, feared his television interests in Asia would be damaged by the paper's allegations about the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamed.

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According to his autobiography, to be published this month, Mr Neil insisted on a "golden parachute" agreement to pay him £1m to leave after Mr Murdoch became alarmed at repercussions for his media operations in the Far East and South-East Asia. Mr Murdoch owns Star TV, the satellite channel which is beamed into millions of homes in India, China and the booming tiger economies of South-East Asia

from Hong Kong. Mr Neil was moved to front a new current-affairs show on ed

Fox TV in the United States doomed never to appear - af-

ter receiving his pay-off. According to the book, Min-isters told Mr Neil and the Sunday Times that a deal had been worked out between Mr Murdoch and Dr Mahathir under which Mr Neil's head was offered on a plate in return for the media tycoon being allowed to do business in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir complained directly to Mr Murdoch about the Sunday Times's claim about the Malaysian Prime Minister's business dealings. Mr Murdoch soothed him by saying Mr Neil was a "rogue editor" and would be sorted out.

The newspaper chief's overriding concern was the fall-out for Star TV, not only in Malaysia, which he regarded as an ideal target but in the rest of the region. He also feared the Sunday Times may have startinvestigating



Neil in his office at the Sunday Times in Wapping

dia and China were two big Star TV markets. There was also the pressure from big British companies which had seen their

trade destroyed by worsening only by the Sunday Times report but also by the parallel Pergau Dam affair. At the time, Mr

itor of the Sunday Times, but it appears Mr Murdoch became envious of the limelight he en-

Photograph: Brian Harris

ning with Mr Murdoch in a restaurant when another diner came to their table and greeted him but ignored the News Inbook makes plain that it was his paper's onslaught against Dr Mahathir and the Malaysian leader's violent reaction which provoked his demise.

Ironically, one economy it does not reach is Malaysia, where Dr Mahathir regards it as too Western. However, Mr Murdoch was determined to crack the country which has the fastest-growing economy in the

region. Mr Murdoch was incandescent with rage at the paper's report in early1994 about Dr Mahathir.

Mr Neil's disclosures in his book, Full Disclosure, are bound to damage relations between Mr Murdoch and Mr Mahathir, not least because Mr Neil

stands by his paper's story.
It will seriously embarrass Mr Murdoch, who is sensitive to claims that his wider business offairs hold sway over his domestic British newspaper and television

Dr Mahathir's response to the article in 1994 was to impose

a blockade on British companie dealing with Malaysia.

While that han was eventu ally lifted. Mr Neil says be wa in no doubt that Mr Murdee was worried about lasting harr to his Star TV channel, which he wanted to broadcast to Malaysia and across South

East Asia In order to placate the Malaysian Prime Minister, M Neil makes plain for the firs time, he was moved to Ameri ca, to Fox TV, another Murdoci

120

While the job at Fox was ex citing, it achieved Mr Mur dech's initial purpose: to get ric of an awkward editor. If Mr Nei was a success in the post, as an chor on a new primetime cur rent-affairs show, all well and good, if he was not, he could be dealt with later.

Subsequently, the two be came favourites: Dr Mahathi was guest of honour at M Murdoch's conference for se nior executives in Australia also attended by Tony Blair.

Leeson boss 'deserved no big bonus'

Nick Leeson, who was promised a £500,000 bonus hours before Barings collapsed, should in hindsight have been offered something minimal instead, the bank's deputy chairman said yesterday.

Andrew Tuckey is said to have promised Mary Walz the huge award 13 hours before news broke of the disaster which Leeson caused in Singapore.

Mr Tuckey told a tribunal that even if Leeson's activities had been uncovered earlier, her bonus would have been "minimal".

"In retrospect our assess-ment of the financial products group's profits was way out," he said. "Mary Walz had failed to understand, along with others, what Nick Leeson was doing. If we had detected Nick Leeson earlier she probably would have received a minimal bonus."

He added:" I did not know anything of the disaster that had overwhelmed Barings until mid-

Nicholas Underhill QC, for the bank, asked whether Ms Walz would have received a bonus if the bank had known about Leeson's disastrous losses on the day the bonus were



the double-decker. Page 5

Mr Tuckey replied: "No. I would have cancelled all those conversations." He admitted that he had praised Ms Walz and handed her a note informing her of her £500,000 bonus, but claimed that it was only pro-

"I handed over the paper bearing the words Mary Walz - 500,000°," he said. "I was seeing 40 other people over a period of two days. The slip of paper had no legal significance - it was just to make sure there were no mistakes.

"I wrote the note just before she walked in. I did not say it was provisional because it seemed obvious. It was inconceivable that a director could not have been aware of this. "I told her she had had a fan-

tastic year. The department had substantially outstripped any other area of the business for the year in question.

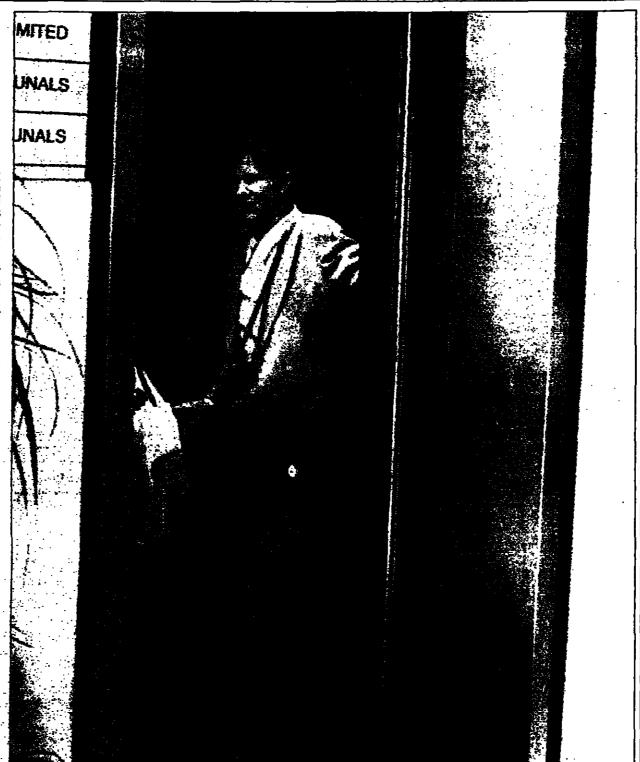
"The performance of the equity group was very remarkable although other parts of the business were also profitable. It Mr Tuckey told the hearing

that bonuses in Ms Walz's department had to be profit-related to encourage success.

The profit of an individual unit was not the only factor but in the case of the financial products groups this was a new business in a very competitive

market," he said. Bonuses in her department were more reliant on profit than any other within the bank. Profitability was by far and away the most important aspect," Mr Thickey said.
Ms Walz claims the £500,000

boms under the Wages Act. The hearing at Stratford, east London, continues. :



Mary Walz arriving at the hearing yesterday. She 'failed to understand'

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Yes, work is the curse of the drinking classes

Labour Editor

Men who believe work is the curse of the drinking classes may have got it right after all.

The irredeemably sober Policy Studies Institute has discovered that males with "attitude" and a big thirst for alcohol have a better chance of finding employment if they lose their jobs than bosses' pets who drink in moderation.

In its report Long Term Un-employment, the institute ventures that big drinkers often collect pub cronies who can make useful contacts during iob-hunting.

An analysis of figures prepared for the Department of Education and Employment reveals that men with a "favourable attitude to work" were at greater risk of redundancy than those with a more negative approach.

Co-author of the report, Joan Payne, believes the awkward squad that spends most time in the pub might be more out-going and self-confident and

macho pub-goer is the finding that men tend to fall apart after divorce or separation. Drawing on data from two national surveys, the National Child Development Study and the Retirement Study, it was found that unemployed men who break up with their wife or partner are less likely to find work. while the chances of women in a similar position are greatly enhanced.

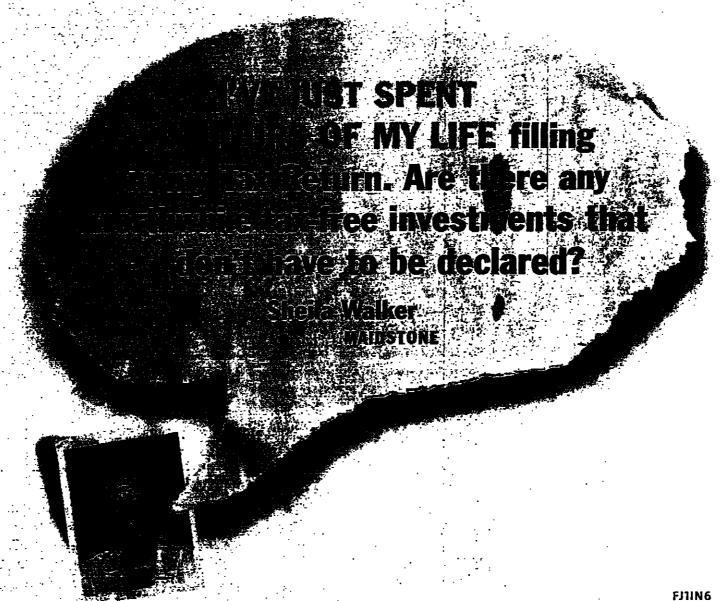
In early adulthood the risk of long-term unemployment can vary enormously. A Scottish man with no children and no qualifications who works in a personal service or a semiskilled job and who has been unemployed in the post, was highly likely to experience a long spell out of work.

A professional man living in Greater London, trained and educated to degree level, with a driving licence, no children and no previous history of unemployment had a "near zero risk" of being on the dole for any length of time. Presumably his chances of being out of spite their penchant for alcohol. he was tectotal and dead keen



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Reservoir plan for a hot, dry Britain

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

Britain's big, privatised water companies yesterday began a campaign to build huge new reservoirs and add to supplies, claiming that climate change was forcing their hand.

The Water Services Association, which represents nine of the ten large drinking-water and sewage groups, was brief-ing journalists to pre-empt a government report on future water use being published today.

The association claims that reducing mains leakage and attempting to persuade the public to use water more carefully is no longer enough to guarantee freedom from shortages. A new "twin-track approach" is needed, in which water resources are boosted, Severn Trent's managing di-

rector, Brian Duckworth, said. But large new reservoirs and the pipes and pumps needed to service them cost tens of millions of pounds, while the water companies are under strong political pressure to hold down bills to customers which have risen much faster than inflation in the years since privatisation.

"We want to start a debate," a spokesman for the Water Services Association said. "Climate change is something the industry has to take on board, and we need to think long term."

In the meantime the contents of today's government re-port was publicised by Friends of the Earth and the Labour Party, to whom it had been leaked. It was revealed that ministers were also taking global warming seriously, and want the water companies to reassess supply and demand in a warmer Britain.

The Government has no proposals for radical new measures. But, after several years of drought and restrictions, it says there is a need for "greater dialogue between water compa- and stored in winter.

nies and their customers on the balance to be struck between higher security of supply and

Household water use has been rising by 1 per cent per year as people become more affluent. in 1961 the average person used 85 litres per day. Today, with more bathing and showering, more use of dishwashers and washing machines and more garden watering, that figure has nearly doubled.

Throughout the Nineties the Government has been in favour of "demand management", which means persuading cus-tomers to use less. That is why it has backed the spread of wa-ter meters, but it has been criticised for doing little concrete to encourage water efficiency. For example, showers - which use far less water than baths - are not mandatory in new homes.

At the moment much of England has a hidden drought, with water tables in five aquifers dotted around the country at record low levels. Yorkshire Water announced yesterday that all its water restrictions would finally be lifted next month, but there are also bans in parts of Southern's and nearly all of North West's areas. Until this year the companies

claimed that they and their customers were the victims of freakishly low rainfall, of the kind that only happened once in 100 years or more. But now they are saying this could be an early sign of man-made climate change. Rainfall has been below average for more than two years.

At the moment, supercom puter simulations of global warming over the next 50 years predict that Britain's total rainfall will increase. But summers across most of England and Wales are forecast to be longer, hotter and drier, sending demand soaring and creating the need for more to be collected

Health White Paper: GPs, dentists and pharmacists see benefits both for themselves and patients



Muscling in: A physiotherapist, Cheryl Atkins, treating a patient at Manor House in Glossop, Derbyshire, a surgery praised by John Major

Back to the future with cottage hospitals

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

Family doctors, dentists, and pharmacists yesterday gave a cautious welcome to the Govemment's new vision of primary care which gives them greater freedom in the way they practise, promises more choice for patients and better tailoring of services to local need.

In stark contrast to the confrontational approach adopted by his predecessors and eschewing the imposition of new ideas, Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, outlined a quiet revolution in which those "at the sharp end seize the initiative".

Implementation of the changes in the primary care White Paper, Choice and Opporunity, launched yesterday, will only follow if voluntary pilot-schemes and evaluation of the Government's proposals

prove their worth, Mr Dorrell flexibility, the White Paper says. Sainbury's, as revealed in The

One of the most dramatic proposals is for a change in GPs' contracts which will speed the growth of "super-surgeries" or cottage hospitals offering a provide services for a local pop-range of healthcare including ulation. It will allow masses,

are independent contractors with the Secretary of State and

Under new legislation, practice-based contracts would be introduced in which a particular practice rather than a GP contracts with a health authority to minor surgery. therapists and managers to play
Currently all family doctors a more high profile role and or-

thority who want to work more regular hours and concentrate on patient care rather than the ganisations or groups of individuals other than GPs to

mess of running a practice. This is expected to improve care in inner-city areas which face a severe shortage of GPs.

Salaried positions are pro-

posed for GPs employed by a

practice, trust or health au-

Independent vesterday.

pital and community health services and prescribing which will, in effect, allow some fundholding GPs to become "minihealth authorities" providing all

in the crisis-ridden NHS dental service is discussed with a range of pilot schemes for health authorities to buy dental services Another significant devel- from local practitioners.

services for their patients.

Greater flexibility for dentists

is endorsed with the creation of incentives for health authorities to buy a wider range of services. including the pharmacy as first stop for the treatment of minor

The British Medical Association applauded the Government's recognition of the value of primary care. The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said the White Paper would mean wider choice and improved value for money.

Peak practice that comes top for service spend time and money travel-NHS £750,000 a year." Dr Old-

Deep in the heart of the Peak District down a small side road off the main high street in Glossop, Derbyshire, lies, Manor House doctor's surgery, the apple of John Major's eye and the super-surgery of the

Conservative future. In his a significant impact on hospital speech to the Tory conference last week, the Prime Minister used Manor House as a prime example of a flourishing fund-

holding practice.
"Waiting lists have been slashed," he said. "People no longer have to trek to the district hospital ... more money is spent on patients, less money spent on paper work. This practice could be the model for the

Year award, Manor House is the surgery that offers everything osteopathy, acupuncture, aromatherapy, counselling and physiotherapy, all carried out by in in-house team.

According to the practice's senior partner, Dr John Oldham, all these services have had

referrals, carried out at less cost.

We are doing more at the surgery for the individual pa-tients' he said. "Our anticoagulant clinic is one of the most successful services. In the past, patients would have to travel 15 miles to one of the two local hospitals but now they come to the clinic for treatment instead. "We analysed the cost of this

new service and it was at a much-reduced cost to the NHS. The holders of last year's The same saving across the

inauguration of a flourishing 'homeward bound unit". The project helps to avoid patients being sent to nursing homes after their hospital care. Now 60 per cent go home and it saves the NHS £0.5m a year.

ham is immensely proud of the

practice's achievements, in par-

ticular its funding of a local cot-

tage hospital which saw the

For the people of Glossop and the sorrounding area the emergence of Manor House has

her the 15-mile trek into Manchester. Mrs Gainey now visits

Gainey, 69, who suffers from asthma and acute bronchitis which caused a blood clot on her A non-fundhold patient, her GP arranged for her to be admitted to the anticoagulant clinic at Manor House to save

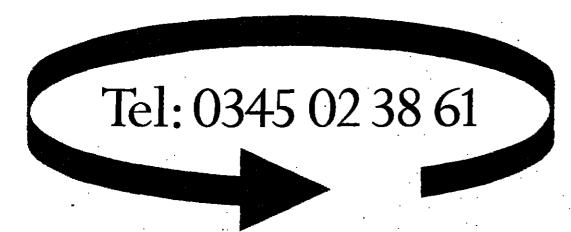
ling as far as Manchester for

One patient whose gained

significantly is Margaret

her home, once a month. Another patient to benefit is 68-year-old Frances Kane "We all consider ourselves very fortunate because we never have problems getting an appoint-ment," she said. "Everyone is so nice here, I'm not surprised Mr

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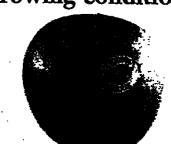
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Banks using customers' cash for arms deals

بقكذا من المذهبل

MICHAEL STREETER

Britain's high-street banks are criticised today in a report that outlines their "despicable" use of customers' money to help finance arms deals with repressive regimes.

The report, prepared by the British-based World Development Movement, is especially critical of Midland Bank for assisting the sale of British Aerospace Hawk trainer jets to the Indonesian government, which

and Nat West, as well as Midand, for their role in "boosting Saddam Hussem's military capacity before the Gulf war, in finance export deals.

Barry Coates, WDM's director, said: "It is despicable that many high-street banks are using our money to finance arms deals to dictators and repressive regimes. Banks must adopt a more ethical policy on arms and invest in a safer future."

able to all banks, to reassure customers. Its report, From High Street to Battlefield: UK Banks and the Arms Trade, says the end of the Cold War combined with a greater Government push for exports has led to a new open market for

the Government's Export Cred-

Guarantees Department

has a poor human rights record. The WDM is pressing for a and arms companies because it it also attacks Lloyds, Barclays ethical code of conduct applichas effectively removed their financial risk, the report says. Apart from the Hawk jets

deal, Midland is also criticised for helping the sale of a Rapier air defence system to the same country, and for deals involving Turkey and Iraq. WDM, which started a camweapons". The increased use of

paign on banks financing arms deals two years ago, claims customers have closed accounts as (ECGD) to underpin sales of a result and students have boyweapons has encouraged banks cotted Lloyds and Midland.

A spokeswoman for Lloyds/ TSB said the bank would only consider lending if a deal had been approved by the Government, and that they would not knowingly do business with a customer who did not follow arms sales rules - a view echoed

by Midland Bank. Barclays Bank has also said that it only financed manufacturing customers, deals that had to be licensed by the Government. NatWest's policy has been that financing arms deals

with "irresponsible" countries is "unacceptable", and that each transaction is treated case by case.The attack on the banks comes as the Cooperative Bank, which is not named in the report, today publishes an "open letter" to its rivals on arms trade financing. The message from managing director Terry Thomas will be that the banks

should adopt a common policy on such funding. In a surprising ruling, a watchdog has rejected complaints about an advertisement for the Cooperative Bank which implied high street banks had used customers' money to finance arms trading, writes Marianne Macdonald.

Midland Bank had objected to a national press campaign picturing a landmine, over copy which read: "Between 1981 and 1990, certain banks used hundreds of millions of pounds of their customers' money to finance the supply of arms to both Iran and Iraq."

In its complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority. it questioned the implication that UK high-street banks had financed the supply of land-

mines or other weapons. But in its ruling published today, the ASA found that the campaign was justified after the Cooperative Bank supplied extracts from the Scott Report, minutes of evidence from the Trade and Industry Committee and letters between banks and

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Shunt stunt: To demonstrate the danger to rail bridges from high vehicles, a bus was driven into one deliberately. The bus lost

They huffed and they bussed, but it still wouldn't fall down

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

The 25-year-old green double decker had been rescued from a scrapyard. At the wheel was John Carr, a stuntman. He put his foot down and drove straight at the bridge. He smashed into it at 25mph

in a cacophony of broken glass and tearing metal. The bus collapsed, but the bridge didn't. The demonstration had been aged by Railtrack to illus-ated the dangers posed by the increasing number of high vehicles "bashing" into its bridges.

The bridge, in Whitehouse Road, Swindon, had the unenviable record of being the most bashed bridge in Britain with 82 hits since January 1990.

The 83rd seemed to be an attempt to turn the double decker into a single one. Even though we had been expecting the bang, it was a profound shock.



The crunch: The bus was driven by the man who delivers chocolates in a television advertisement. He said the shattering glass looked beautiful

More than half the roof of the bus was removed but the bridge, which carries the Great Western main line, was undamaged. apart from the sign reading "3.1m, 10.0" which was soon replaced. The bridge, built in 1910, was quickly passed as

safe for the trains.

British Rail started monitoring bridge strikes in 1990, the number has gone up from 806 to 1,101 last year, 59 per cent due to driver error and a third as a result of poor loading of the ve-

Newly privatised Railtrack, which is now responsible, reckons such strikes cost £5m in re-

pairs and much more in train delays for which it now has to reimburse train operators.

Each time a bridge is hit.

an engineer has to check it before trains can use it again, a process which often takes several hours as few people are qualified for the task. Mr Carr is the man who

risked life and limb in the Milk Tray advertisements to ensure that the lady got her chocolates. He emerged looking slightly shakes:

"As the glass shattered, it was so beautiful, it looked like a rainbow," he said. So that's why those thousand or more drivers a year do it.

Britain's most damaged bridges January 1990-June 1996

 Whitehouse Road, Swindon – 82 strikes. 2. Sturmey Road (A142), Ely - 61 3. Mill Lane, Bradford - 54

4. Stoke Road (A5006), Stoke-on-Trent - 47

5. West Street, Glasgow - 43 6. Barrowby Road (A52), Grantham - 42 7. Hawkendge Road, Westbury, nr Bath - 41 8. Station Road (B470), Langley,

nr Slough - 39 9. Tregoss Moor Road (A30), Roche, nr Bodmin - 37 10. Dingley Road (A427), Market Harborough - 36



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NHS lost £1m on computer agency sale

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Westminster Correspondent A National Health Service information technology agency was sold too cheaply to a US firm which, in recent months, not pay enough attention to the agency's worth as a business ophas been picking up the bulk of government computer con-tracts, according to an official

report out today. The study by the National Audit Office, the public spending watchdog, found that the South and West Regional Health Authority could have secured better value for the taxpayer when it sold the SWift computer division to EDS last

The NAO report will fuel the controversy at Westminster ued by the health authority. As about the amount of public sector work being awarded to der NHS rules, the authority EDS. Computer contracts from several government depart-ments are now in the hands of the company, once run by mayerick US presidential candidate, Ross Perot. Opposition MPs have been pressing for further details of how the firm has

come to dominate the Government's computer market. In a highly critical report, the NAO said that the health authority put a value on SWift's software and hardware but did

Consultants hired by the NAO put a likely value on SWift of £7m to £11m. This compared with the deal agreed with EDS, which saw the US firm pay £800,000 for SWift's assets and to provide future discounts to the agency's cus-tomers - primarily the health authority - worth £2.3m to

a result, EDS got a bargain. Unwas not required to estimate the possible financial return to EDS from the agency.

The sale was supposed to be competitive, but only four early bids were received and of these, only two submitted an

When EDS emerged as the final bidder, the company was able to negotiate its price down by aimost £1m. This was because EDS agreed to take on SWift's pension arrangements, which brought the offer down by £450,000, and problems with the agency's software, which knocked a further £500,000 off the price. In future, said the NAO,

such sales should be conducted on a more realistic, commercial footing. Instead of selling off the individual component parts, the public sector seller should pay closer attention to the likely financial return. When drawing up short-lists,

the government vendor should

try and keep as many potential purchasers in the frame as possible and for as long as possible, recommended the NAO. To avoid problems emerging

at the final stage and the last re-maining bidder being able to talk down the price, the seller should make all information available to all the bidders,

Field trailblazes his radical pension plan

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

A blueprint for "thinking the unthinkable" about the welfare state was unveiled yesterday by Frank Field, the Labour MP regarded as a trailblazer for Tony Blair. The plans from Mr Field, chairman of the all-party social security select committee, had been eagerly awaited as evidence of the possible shape of a radi-

cal overhaul under Labour. Harman, Labour's social security spokeswoman, welcomed the proposals for "stakeholder pensions", which aim to give people a fund of their own on top of the basic state pension. But the net effect of the plans is remarkably

similar to "old Labour" policies to raise taxes and redistribute resources from rich to poor.

Figures produced by the Government Actuary for Mr Field show that those earning less than about £15,000 a year would gain in their pay packet and in future pension rights, while those above that level would pay more. In all, taxes and compulsory contributions would rise by £3bn a year.

The most striking proposal is A representative for Harriet to close down the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps); from 2000 all employees would be required to contribute to their own pension. The plans would be funded by a cut in the starting rate of income tax to 5p in the pound, with the standard

by national insurance contributions. In addition, those earning more than £100 a week would make compulsory contributions to a second pension.

The Labour leader is known to admire Mr Field, and to have been disappointed with Chris Smith, who he charged with "thinking the unthinkable" as social security spokesman. But Mr Field's plans are likely to be unacceptable to either Mr Blair or Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, who both thought Labour's plans to increase income tax at the last election

were a vote-loser. □How to Pay for the Future; ICS, 18 Victoria Park Square, London

Gambling industry gets lucky at last



Relaxing gamepian: Home Office proposals will allow casino members to buy alcohol, with debit cards, after midnight

JASON BENNETTO, Crime Correspondent

Bingo clubs may be allowed to advertise on television and radio, and betting shops and casinos should soon be able to

the Home Office said yesterday. The proposals are part of the Government's initiative to deregulate the gaming industry. Under Home Office proposals strict licensing curbs that forbid the serving of alcohol in casinos after midnight are to come to E2 9PF; £40 institutions or £10 | an end. Casinos in England

promote their services in print,

The deregulation of the gaming sector gets underway

and Wales will be allowed to sell beers, wines and spirits until 3am in London, and until 2am

The 48-hour rule, which prevents anybody playing in a casino until two days after applying for membership, is to be cut to 24 hours. Under the proposals, debit cards will also be allowed in casinos and bingo clubs. The measures are included in a draft Deregulation (Casinos) Order which should

come into play in the New Year amined after local authorities if they receive a smooth passage through Parliament.

Timothy Kirkhope, Home Office minister, added: "On Cambridgeshire - raised obbingo and betting shops, I projections. Additional cities may pose to lay a draft order later - be added to the original list. The this year to remove restrictions potential sites, already menon print advertising and possi- tioned are Dartford and Folke-bly to allow broadcast adver- stone in Kent, Gloucester, tising of bingo.

Earlier proposals to allow 13 new casinos to be built in England and Wales are be re-ex-

Swindon in Wiltshire and Wesmouth, Dorset. An announce-

stone in Kent, Gloucester,

Hastings in East Sussex, Ipswich in Suffolk, Morecambe in Lan-

cashire, Oxford, Redbridge in Essex, Slough in Berkshire,

ment is expected in a few week.
Mr Kirkhope also announced that additional measures would from two of the areas earbe considered before being put marked - Croydon in south before Parliament. These pro-London, and Peterborough in posals would be to allow nostal applications for membership. group membership, and slot machines in casinos.

The proposals reflect the Government's deregulation policy and follow complaints by the gaming industry that it has been losing a lot of business to the National Lottery.



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Arms agreement frees Stormont logjam

المكذا من الأمل

Ireland Correspondent

A rare instance of progress in the multi-party talks at Stormont yesterday led participants into their first substantive talks on the issue of arms decommissioning a move which was hailed as a modest breakthrough.

Although the talks have been underway since 10 June, the par-ticipants - the British and Irish governments and nine of Northem Ireland's 10 largest politi-cal groupings - had not previously reached agreement on rules and procedure.

The tenth party, Sinn Fein, is not in the talks. Seven of the nine parties signed up overnight to a compromise arrangement aimed at moving the talks on, though in the face of angry dissent from the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and another unionist party. These de-nounced David Trimble's Ulster Unionist party for allegedly sidelining the arms issue.

Much of the argument of recent months has centred on the question of when the controversial decommissioning issue should be addressed, with Mr Paisley and others insisting it should be at the top of the agenda. The arrangement put into gan after less than an hour spent m discussion of a draft agenda.

The Ulster Unionist party spokesman, Reg Empey, said lest night: "We were accessed of de-grading decommissioning and putting it on the back burner nothing of the case. The first item was the circulation of draft agendas for the substantive talks. That took a total of 31 minutes,

sioning debate." One important effect of the new arrangement is that it facilitates the loyalist fringe parties in staying at the table.

This is seen as a belaful factor in persuading loyalist paramilitary groups not to end their cases of the process of the Protest marching organisations, to about Londonderry city's within the processing of the protest of the processing of the protest of the

The modest movement in the talks has at least had the effect of relieving fears that they would run into the sands by the end of this month without any progress having been made. The formula arrived at secus to assure their continuation for

operation yesterday meant a the moderate Alliance party, debate on decommissioning be-said: "The progress was very im-

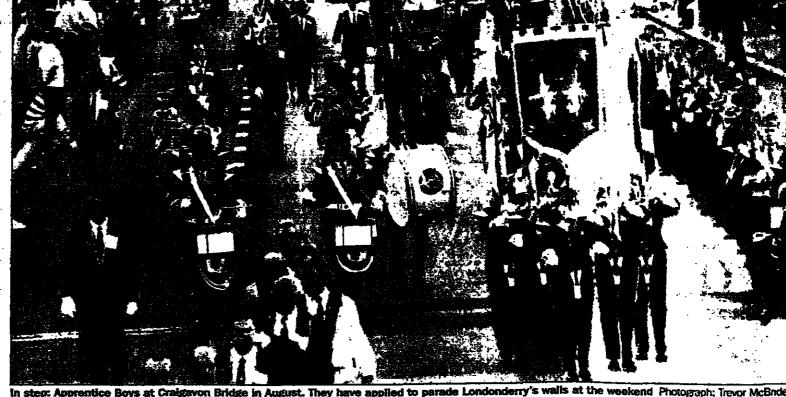
portant but one shouldn't overstate what was achieved. What we have now got is an agreement about how we talk about the agenda and how we talk about decommissioning. That's a step forward, but it's not the kind of dreadfully dangerous betrayal that the DUP have sug-gested, not at all."

He added that he believed this stage of the talks would last

The Apprentice Boys of marching organisations, have applied for permission to walk out Londonderry city's walls

In August a crisis was awarted when the organisation postponed plans for a similar parade. The Bogside Residents Group yesterday called on the marchers to open talks with local Catholics on the plans. The group said that if they did there was a very strong likelihood of

Leading article, page 15



In step: Apprentice Boys at Craigavon Bridge in August. They have applied to parade Londonderry's walls at the weekend Photograph; Trevor McBride

Agencies supply drunk teachers

Drunk teachers and those on a Government blacklist are being sent into schools as supply teachers because of the failure to regulate teacher agencies.

A survey of Greater London secondary schools by Margaret Hodge, the Labour MP for Barking, found that three-quarters used private agencies and a third complained about the teachers they were sent. They worried that those recruited by agencies had escaped from full-time teaching because they could not cope or had been sacked. One teacher who was too drunk to teach presented himself in front of a class.

The schools said agencies used teachers who: were just babysitters with worksheets; came from abroad and knew nothing about English exams or our rejects turning up in classthe national curriculum; were late, racist, or aggressive; or, were in the middle of nervous breakdowns. Even when a head was aggressive he was simply sent to another school.

In July, Mrs Hodge told the master on the government blacklist of those barred from teaching turned up in a school

as the director of a Manchester teaching agency, to drum up business. He had been convicted of theft.

Ministers have promised to close a loophole which allows agencies to employ teachers without checks on their back-ground. But Mrs Hodge does not believe the checks will be rigorous enough. "Schools must be able to rely on the agencies to send suitably qualified staff," she said. "The survey proves that some ... agencies are failing our children." On average every child is taught by a supply teacher for two classes a week

Tish Seabourne, managing director of TimePlan, the biggest agency which sends out 700 supply teachers a day, said she supported Mrs Hodge. "It has become clear that other agencies are not applying the same standards as ourselves. We see rooms ... In 1992, we asked the Government to bring in regulations to give the whole industry a new framework."

spokesman said guidance on checking supply teachers had been issued to schools in June. make it compulsory to carry out



anc

race to beat a legal deadline. Page 8

Scientists claim breakthrough in zero-gravity sminting

PHYSICISTS in Cam-

bridge are close to solving

the bizarre and baffling

phenomenon of zero gravi-

ty sminting. A team led

by Professor Albert E.

Hatt, has been operating

with scientists from both the USA and Russia to determine the effects of zero gravity sminting on

After being exposed to

bomming birds.

could achieve a state of complete weightlesss. In other words, they could float. Even more sensational, this experiment has now been carried out on heavy as 20 stope. Leaked photographs

England"show Russian volunteers floating at least 15 feet in the air and being secured by fishing lines. Professor Hatt explains: "At first, it was a bit tricky with the humans, especially the overweight Russian volunteers. We had to subject them to continuous sminting before

we saw any effect. But once we got the dose. right, we had them floating on air for up to an hour at a

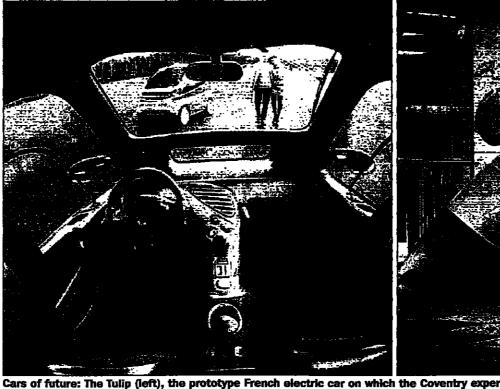


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CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

The biggest ever experiment involving electric cars replacing conventional combustion engine cars is to start in Coventry next month, with 14 Peugeot 106s being operated by five different

The experiment, part of a £500,000 project, is designed to test whether electric cars and light vans could be used by a

and cities. It follows a successful two-year experiment in La Rochelle, on the western coast of France with about 40 cars which involved members of the public as well as companies. Myles Mackle, who is Coventry council's project officer for the scheme, said: "La Rochelle helped Peugeot to develop the 106 and to test the car in a range

wide range of organisations to of practical applications. Now reduce local pollution in towns we are trying the same thing in we are trying the same thing in a British context."

A future version of the electric car, the Concept 2096, was unveiled at the Motor Show yes-Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to celebrate 100 years of the British motor, the routes, with low emission rates.

and reading meters. The range of the vehicles is The Coventry vehicles, which around 60 miles and they have should all be on the road next

month, are being used by Roy-al Mail, East Midlands Electricity, PowerGen, Coventry City Council and Peugeot itself. was responsive and peppy, belying the sluggish image which A set of recharging points around the city is being develhas bedeviled electric cars. The cars use a nickel-cadmi-

um battery which take four hours to recharge, last for eight years, and cost £12, 000, around fuelled during the day. They will be used as part of these organdouble their petrol equivalent. Although in France, the 106 has isations' normal fleet, for routine tasks such as delivering mail become the first modern elec-

a top speed of 60mph. When and therefore the cost of parts The Independent drove one, it very is high. very is high.

> tually the same as the conventional car, except they have re- \$ duced space in the boot to accommodate batteries and are four-seater. A spokesman for Peugeot said: "We believe that for electric cars to be accepted widely, they have to provide the

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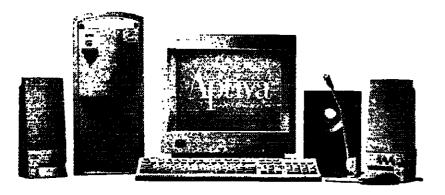
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Foreign firms wheel out £1bn of new money

Business Correspondent

The car industry was boosted yesterday with news of investment by Peugeot, Vauxhall and Rover thought to be worth al-

As the Motor Show kicked off at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre it emerged that Peugeot is to build a sec-ond model range at its plant at Coventry, securing the future of 2,500 staff and probably creating hundreds more jobs among components suppliers.

Peugeot is notoriously cagey the board is understood to have decided to expand production The car is thought to be a replacement for the 205, which redefined the small-car market in the 1980s but recently ended a

14-year British sales run. The news is a vote of confidence by Peugeot in Ryton, which currently assembles the 306 Escort-sized car. The workforce has shrunk from 4,300 to 2,600 in five years and the plant's long-term future had been in doubt. The decision will

believed to be worth several hundred million pounds. British engineers bave already been seconded to France to work on

In another sign of the re-naissance of the industry, Vauxhall confirmed that it is to spend £300m, its largest sing British investment, updating its factory at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside, which has trans-formed itself over the past 10 years from General Motors' least productive European factory to the lowest-cost manufacturer of the five plants which make the Astra.

The investment, to be backed by a small government grant, will re-equip the site, raising ca-pacity from 145,000 cars a year to 160.000.

Low labour costs and huge productivity strides have maxde Britain increasingly attractive to GM; 40 per cent of Ellesmere Port's Astras go abroad, whereas hardly any were exported five years ago. Nick Reilly, Vaux-hall's chairman, said: "Had we still been a domestic only producer, the amount of the investment would have been nothing like the amount we've



Big plans for little new Land Rover

CHRIS GODSMARK

Land Rover is to build a baby-sized four-wheel-drive vehicle and plans to expand production dramatically, the company an-

nounced yesterday. The compact Land Rover, one of the first fruits of BMW's take-over of Rover three years ago, is designed to head off competition from the Japanese in a road market. It will share many of the famed abilities of its illustrious predecessors though few of the compacts are likely to do anything more taxing than pottering around town or a lit-

tle leisurely motorway cruising. Land Rover refused to reveal what the compact would look like or how much it will cost but the aim is to attract new buyers to the brand when it goes on sale early in 1998.

It is intended that production at the Solibull manufacturing complex should rise from an an-ticipated 130,000 vehicles this year to 200,000 by the end of the decade. The investment, which will mean security for the 12,000-strong workforce, will come from the £500m-a-year that BMW is committed to pumping into its British sub-sidiary. It's definitely a small er product than the Discovery and we believe there's picnty of scope to get new buyers." Richard Elsy, the project director, said.

Land Rover is thought to have used Toyota's new RAV4-a chiclooking two-door four-wheeldrive - as its benchmark for the compact. According to Toyota insiders, British engineers bought four of the RAV4s from dealers

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6 If I don't get this settled before I die, my family are going to get nothing

Gulf war syndrome: Dying veterans plan swift action against MoD to protect their families

IAN BURRELL

R Bent . THE INDEED

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mone

Veterans dying from conditions associated with so-called Gulf war syndrome plan quickfire in-dividual legal actions against the Ministry of Defence because they fear they will not survive long enough for a collective action to be brought.

More than 1,000 veterans.

have registered legal claims against the MoD since the end of the war in 1991. The collective action may

not reach the courts for several years but 26 veterans have already died and dozens more are now critically ill.

Captain Ian Hill, from Man chester, said he would be dead this time next year and that his family might lose possible compensation if he died before getting to court. 'I have got to think of my family for when I am dead and gone. If I don't get this settled before I die they are going

Capt Hill, 50, a father of four, is suffering from neurological damage, emphysema and chronic breathing difficulties.

His wife Carol, a registered nurse, has repeatedly had to revive him after he has stopped breathing during the night. "I have to kick-start him by giving him a thump in the chest," she said. "One of these nights, I am not going to be able to do it."

Capt Hill, who is chairman of the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association, was passed "A1 fit" by army doctors when he left for the Gulf in 1990. His responsibility was to set up the operating theatres to treat casualties of war, but he ended up being the first patient when he became sick after the hospital tents were sprayed with organophosphate pesticides (OPs). He was airlifted back to Britain where his condition has steadily deteriorated.



to terms with the fact that this time next year we doubt very much whether he will be alive.

the tests that are being planned will all be too late. They might help those who have 15 years to live but they won't help those that are dying now. Ian wants to speak while he is still here."

appeared to soften its position this month with an admission that OPs had been used more than was previously believed. The Government has now commissioned research into

"The collective case and all

The MoD, which denies the existence of Gulf war syndrome,

the protection that was given to those coming into contact with OPs and the likely damage caused by the pesticides.

By the time the results are Captain Flynn White, 31,

died last month just 13 days before the MoD announcement. He had been sent to the Gulf within days of graduating from Sandhurst. His mother Angela said: "As far as we know he was in perfect health. I think that atever it was [that caused his illness] happened in the

not as well when he came back." Capt White, who had a wife and young child, was afflicted by a mysterious draining of his en-

ergy which he fought against. His mother said: "He battled hard against what he thought was lethargy and he did enormous amounts of fitness training to get back on track."

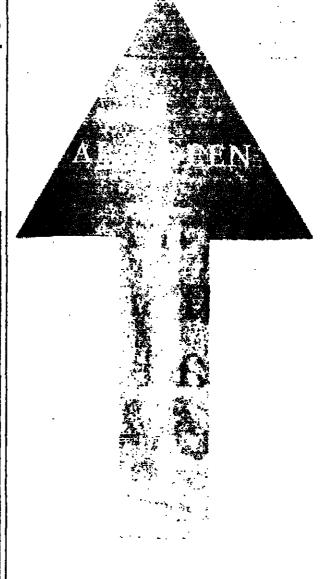
However, his efforts in the improvement and he began to feel unstable on his feet. He lodged a legal claim with the MoD reporting a long list of symptoms including fatigue, di-arrhoea, anxiety and loss of bal-

ance. In April 1994, he was diagnosed by doctors as having a bram tumour.

His mother said she would never know the actual cause of his illness. "His own view was that it was something that happened in the Gulf," she said.

Capt White joins a growing list of Gulf veterans who have died young: Cpl Peter Gowans died from chronic myeloid leukaemia three weeks ago at the age of 29; Cpl Gary Graham, died in May at the age of 31, from a tumour of the spine; Pte Simon Bottrell, 30, died in

brain haemorrhage in February 1991 after phoning home to



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Equality chief berates 'cynical' companies Vauxhall and Mercury - all

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

The chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality yesterday revealed years of frustration with the white establishment when he registered his "cyni-cism" over the high-minded pronouncements of government and business leaders.

Herman Ousley denounced an paper by the CBI on the busi-

ness case for equal opportunities - A Winning Strategy - as "yet another initiative in a long line of mitiatives". Speaking at the launch of the document at the CBI's central London offices, Mr Ousley also attacked the Government for the ethnic mix on its nationwide "new apprenticeship" scheme. He said that only 2 per cent of the participants in the first year of the scheme were black, which

amounted to a "disgrace". And, after 20 years of equal oppor-tunities legislation, projects and initiatives, more than 62 per cent of black males in London were out of work, he said.

Research by the commission in the north of England and Scotland found that black people invariably encountered prej-adice when applying for jobs. Applicants from ethnic minorities were frequently told jobs had

been taken - while white applicants often found the same posts still vacant. The same occurred in accommodation searches. Even supposedly strong sup-porters of equal opportunities in the private sector had proved unsuccessful. John Moores, director of Littlewoods, had failed to secure an ethnic balance in his pools and mail order business, despite a 30-year aim to do

so, Mr Ousley said.

Yesterday, the CBI conceded its own practices were far from perfect. About 58 per cent of CBI employees are women, mostly employed in the lower clerical grades. Just one woman is head of a CBI department.

Only 6.4 per cent of staff are from ethnic minorities; and 0.3 per cent are disabled.

The CRE chairman said that companies such as BA, Ford,

been forced to make "corporate climbdowns" in the past 12 months over their advertising and promotional material. Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman

of the Equal Opportunities Commission, welcomed the CBI's document, but warned companies that unless they embraced equal opportunities they were on a "suicidal path"

with progressive policies - had



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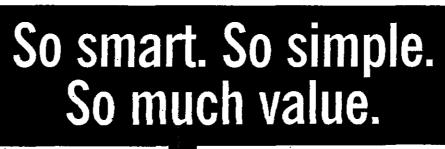
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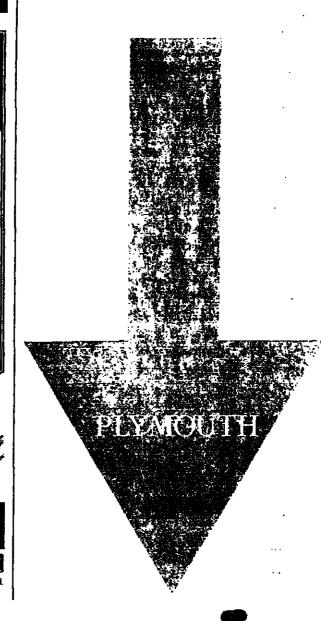


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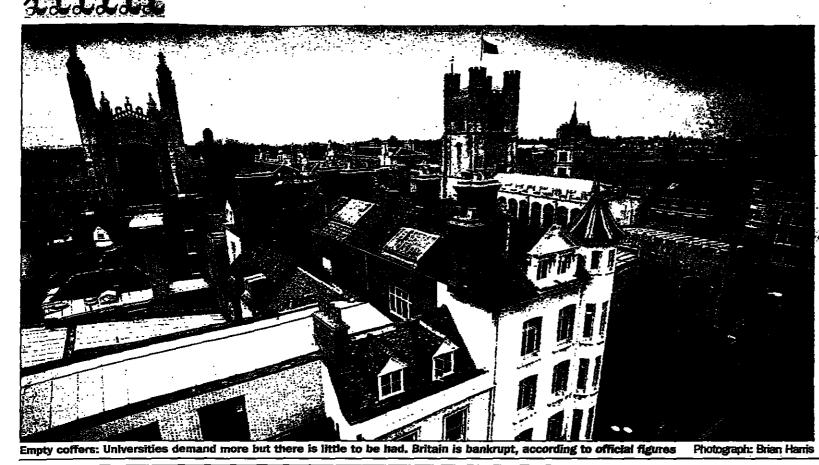
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WHOSE BOOM?

Revenues from privatisation and oil have disguised Britain's bankruptcy for years. However, if borrowing targets are to be met into the next century, politicians will have to either raise taxes or severely shrink the Welfare State



Broke Britain lives now, but must pay later

The British Government is bankrupt, according to official figures. Over the years it has cal-taxes without holding back in spending, using privatisation revenues and North Sea of

But, in the short term, Kenneth Clarke is probably going to strike it lucky with the booming economy helping to trim the Government's month-by-month borrowing figures. There is lit-tle danger that the state of like public mances will prevent the

will help politicians avoid really difficult questions during the election campaign. Andrew Dil-not, director of the Institute for thaces the samual Green Budget, saids "The real challenge is the long-team balance between public and provide sector activity."

He does not think there is a

danger of the incoming government having to raise taxes soon after the election, as long as the pace of growth holds up as expected next year. "As long as there is nothing outrageously proffigate in this Budget, the Government's fiscal position looks ... reasonable," he said.

According to the Treasury's latest published forecasts, the public-sector borrowing requirement - the gap between public expenditure and tax revenues - will be £26.9bn in the current financial year and £23.1bn next year. This 1997 shortfall would be just low enough for Britain to qualify for the European single currency.

Other economists reckon these forecasts are on the cautious side, the Treasury having

months earlier, perhaps partly because of companies' growing skill at avoidance measures.

Huss retui in per to Wi Bain

Since March, tax revenues have been rolling in thanks to the recovery. The Budget is likely to show future burrowing that is the same or better than the last Treasury forecast, with goverament finances balancing by the turn of the century.

The hig question, however, will be whether this government and the next can deliver on tough spending plans. The ex-isting plans call for little growth in real terms in public spending. with its share of gross domestic product falling from 42 per cent last year to less than 39 per cent in 1998-99.

This requires the public sector to turn on a sispence and reverse the trend of the past half century. As Mr Dilnot puts it: "I think the Chancellor will announce very tight spending plans. If they are to be hit there will be a great deal of pain in the public sector, with a complete rethinking of public provision. If they are not hit, taxes will have to go up.

The party political jousting next month will focus on the been stung by criticism of its ear-lier overoptimism. Revenues from corporation tax and value-bidden agenda is the shape of added tax in the year to March government we are willing to pay turned out to be £3bn lower for in the next century.

Public sector workers keep fragile peace

teachers, doctors, civil servants and council employees who have been tipped off about how much less the Government proposes to spend on them during the year to come.

But this autumn the silence is desfening. Despite Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, warning public employees there will be no extra money for pay rises, despite the Government's affirmation that total public spending can rise by only half a per

cent next year, the usual parade of "bleeding stumps" is missing. True, the head of the Prison Service has complained publicly about the gap between the cost of accommodating the rising numbers of prisoners and the finance allocated to jails. University vice-chancellors, too, have been muttering ominously. Un-less more is allocated them, especially for capital spending, they have threatened to impose

"top-up" fees on students.
But all in all public spending is far less of a problem than might have been predicted.
One reason is that just before
and after the last election there
was a (politically useful) sphirge. Between 1991-92 and

1995-96 spending rose by almost 2 per cent a year in real terms. The season of mists and mellow Since then a new system of confruitfulness is usually punctu- trol through a Cabinet comated by the agonised screams of mittee chaired by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, seems to have been effective in keeping outlays inside planned totals.

Another reason is that the pay of public employees has largely kept up with the private sector - but the Government has been able to accommodate the increases by gradually whittling away at the total numbers employed, for example through contracting out services.

But how long will this autumn's relative peacefulness persist? The answer depends on how tightly the Government sticks to its ambition of pushing downwards the proportion of national output that moves in and out of government coffers. It wants by the century's end to push this figure down to 38 per cent, from its current level between 42 and 43 per cent (about the same as when the Tories took office in 1979).

That will require real pressuré. But a growing proportion of all spending is in health and education where where people seem to want more, not less, spent. Moderate growth in health spending could very easily come to look like cuts.

DAILY POEM

Poem for a Man with No Sense of Smell

By Kate Clanchy

This is simply to inform you:

that the thickest line in the kink of my hand smells like the feel of an old school desk, the deep carved names worn sleek with sweat

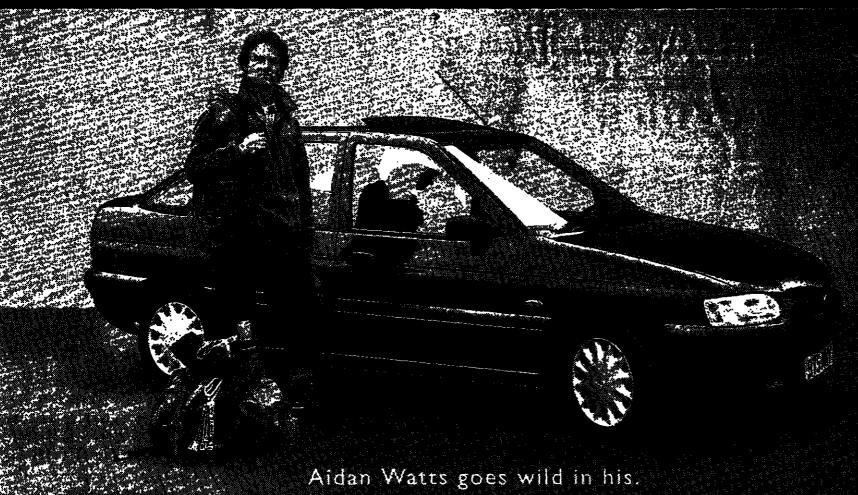
that beneath the spray of my expensive scent my armpits sound a bass note strong as the boom of a palm on a kettle drum; that the wet flush of my fear is sharp as the taste of an iron pipe, midwinter, on a child's hot tongue, and that sometimes.

in a breeze, the delicate hairs on the nape of my neck, just where you might bend your head, might hesitate and brush your lips

hold a scent frail and precise as a fleet of tiny origami ships, just setting out to sea.

Kate Clanchy last week won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection for her splendid Slatters (Chatto, £6.99). Sharp, pungent and sensual. Clanchy's verse explodes on the palate in a gent and sensual. Contains a verse expanses on the patter in a series of intimate, and sometimes wry, vignettes of memory, love and loss. Born in Glasgow in 1965, she was educated in Edinburgh and Oxford and now teaches in the East End of Lundon.

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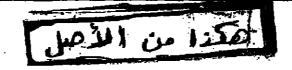
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Middle East: King's visit underlines Arab unity in demand for Israeli withdrawal from Hebron

Hussein returns in peace to West Bank

PATRICK COCKBURN

King Hussein returned to the West Bank yesterday for the first time since the Jordanian army was defeated here by Israel in 1967. He landed by helicopter on the outskirts of Jericho, the autonomous Palestinian enclave, accompanied by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

The purpose of the meeting in Jericho was to underline Arab solidarity in demanding that Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, fulfil the Oslo accords by withdrawing from most of Hebron. *1 am happy to be on Palestinian land," said King Hussein at a joint press conference. "We will support our brothers by all

Palestinians lining the main road in Jericho, a sleepy town of 20,000 in the Jordan valley which gained autonomy in 1994, ooked pleased that King Husw sein was among them. Amil Amar, a local doctor, said: "It is better to have friends than enemies on your side. Unfortunately the Americans are always with Israel."

Majid Awali. a photographer specialising in portraits and passport photographs, said: "At. least the Arabs are getting united. A number of photographs on the wall of his shop showed young men in Jericho, some in

machine-guns or pistols. He agreed this could not have hapened before the Israelis left in 1994, adding: "Before, people used to fight the Israelis with stones but now Palestinians have 40,000 guns. We feel safer,

As King Hussein and Mr Arafat drove speedily into town in a motorcade, bystanders said they thought that Mr Net-anyahu would, eventually, withdraw from Hebron, but would otherwise concede little to the Palestinians. Ibrahim Balo. a middle-aged pharmacist, said: Netanyahu will give us nothing on Jerusalem, withdrawal from the West Bank, Israeli settlements, Palestinian refugees or our own state."

Conversations in the streets of Jericho were probably not very different from those taking place inside Mr Arafat's headquarters. At the press conference the Palestinian leader suggested, somewhat maliciously since there is nothing Mr Netanyahu is less likely to accept, that an international force protect the 400 Israeli settlers in Hebron "with the participation of the American army

In abeyance is the rivalry between Mr Arafat and King Hussein for political control of the West Bank, which Jordan seized in 1948 and annexed in 1951. Although the King formally renounced his rights dur-



uprising), the Palestinian leadership remain suspicious that Israel would like to use him to minimise their authority on the West Bank. For the moment, however, Mr Netanyahu's belligerence has forced the two rivals together.

confusion the formal Israeli-Palestinian negotiations which were meant to resume in Taba in Egypt yesterday. Palestinians say little progress is being made. while Israel says agreement is

uniform, posing with sub- ing the Palestinian intifada The Jericho talks threw into promise appears to be emerg-

ing whereby Palestinian police will only carry pistols, not rifles, on the hills overlooking the Israeli settlements and in buffer zones. Hot pursuit by Israeli forces will only happen when accompanied by Palestinian

string out the withdrawal from Hebron, which he had been doing since he won the election in May, has been reduced by his decision to open the tunnel in Jerusalem which provoked fighting in which 60 Palestinians and 15 Israelis were killed.

covered they have a new weapon." Danny Rubenstein, a specialist on the Palestinians. writes. "They can synthesise elements of civil disobedience in intifada style and the use of live weapons by the Palestinian

Court orders retrial of SS killer

ANDREW GUMBEL

An Italian appeal court last night annulled the trial of Erich Priebke, the former SS captain involved in the 1944 massacre of Jews and resistance fighters at the Ardeatine Caves, outside Rome, ruling that the original trial judge had been biased from the outset and ordering the proceedings to start again

from scratch. The Court of Cassation accepted evidence by families of the victims that Judge Agosti-no Quistelli of the Military Court had decided to go easy on Priebke before the case came before him this summer.

In July, Judge Quistelli found Priebke guilty of murder but exonerated him from a jail sentence because his crimes were not grave enough to circumvent the normal statute of limitations

The Ardeatine Caves massacre, in which 335 men and boys were shot dead in retaliation for a partisan attack on an SS unit, is considered the supreme symbol of Nazi barbarity during the German oc-cupation of Italy, and the verdict against Priebke was condemned by the entire estabishment right up to the President.

Because of this, Priebke was never let out of jail, with the ex-cuse that he must stay behind bars pending proceedings to extradite him to Germany. Lawyers for the victims' families unearthed a tape-recording in which Judge Quistelli was heard to call the massacre an old story" that did not deserve the severe approach most Italians were clamouring for.

The lawyers had presented imilar evidence, incriminating both the judge and the prose-cution, during the trial but had their petition for a re-trial turned down on that occasion. It is not clear if Priebke will go before the Military Court again or if the case will be transferred to a common-criminal tribunal

Slovenes say they are the ideal recruits for Nato

TONY BARBER Europe Editor

Slovenia's Foreign Minister, racy, has democratic control of Davorin Kraeun, predicted yes-terday that his country would be among the first group of Central and East European countries to join Nato.

Speaking in London before talks with the Foreign and De-fence Secretaries. Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Portillo. Mr Kraeun said Slovenia's bid for membership aroused less concern in Russia than the applications of other former Communist countries, because the former Yugoslav republic of 2 million people had never been in Moscow's sphere of influence.

We expect to be in the first wave of enlarging Nato," he



a wildly chaotic land? Page 12

said. "Slovenia fulfils all the conditions for membership in Nato.

"Slovenia is a stable democthe armed forces, and has no disputes with neighbours that we could describe as security risks," Referring mainly to Russia, he added: "Slovenia is among the candidates for Nato membership that are less irritating for those countries that don't see their future in the Nato framework, Slovenia has never been in the Soviet sphere of interest."

Slovenia, the most prosper-ous and liberal of the six republics of former Yugoslavia. secured independence in 1991 after a brief but bloody war against the Serbian-led Yu-goslav army. The country managed to avoid any involvement in the conflicts in both Croatia and Bosnia, and its chief foreign-policy goals since inde-pendence have been to join Nato and the European Union and to integrate itself com-pletely with the West.

Nato is expected to issue invitations for membership next year to a limited number of former Communist countries. The Czech Republic, Hungary,



Poland and Slovenia are widely considered to be the frontrunners for inclusion in the alliance, a process that Nato would like to complete in time for its 50th anniversary in April

Mr Kraeun said that, from Nato's point of view, one of the attractions of admitting Slovenia was that it would ensure that Hungary, an important prospective member of the alliance, would not be geographically cut off from the rest of Nato.

There is a natural connection between northern Italy and Hungary that goes through Slovenia, enabling Nato to have

Advertisement

The recently published book, OpJB, is an account of how Ian Fleming and Christopher

Creighton, the book's author, led an expedition that brought Martin Bormann, Hitler's

Secretary, to England at the war's end. The book has been the centre of sensational con-

troversy. Bormann, as the sole executor of Hitler's will played an essential part in the disposal of Nazi assets in Swiss Banks. Bormann's authority to release such assets was the reason the Allies wanted him in England. This is a matter of supreme historical importance. In the interests of truth, a reward is hereby being made of

Conditions of the reward. Applicants must provide direct, first-hand, factual evidence, not based on ramour, gossip, heresay or opinion, provable in a court of law, that Operation James Band, as described in OpJB, did not take place. Applicants must also be prepared to rebut and negate the evidence produced by Creighton, that OpJB did take place. The facts to be relevant must have accurred between January 1 1945 and May 15 1945. This offer is open until December 31 1996 and only the first person providing such conclusive evidence will receive the \$20,000 reward. If legal costs are involved, each side will pay its own. Applications to be sent to Operation James Bond, c/o Curtis Brown, Haymarket, Landon.

to anyone who can provide evidence that Operation James Bond did not take place.

a link with Hungary on land."

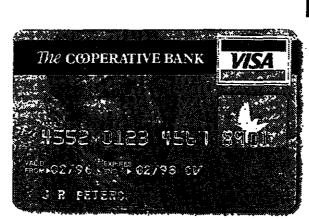
This particular problem would not arise if Slovakia, which links Hungary with the Czech Republic, were considered likely to be in Nato's first wave of enlargement.

Slovakia's However, chances of early Nato membership have dimmed because of doubts among Western governments over the quality of democracy and civil rights under Slovakia's Prime Minister. Vladimir Meciar.

The geographical case for admitting Slovenia appears rather more compelling than the purely military one, since the country's armed forces are only 15,000 strong, Mr Kracun said that Slovenia spent 1.7 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product on defence.

Anti-military sentiment among young Slovenes was one of the main forces propelling Slovenia towards independence in the late 1980s but Mr Kracun pointed out that this feeling was directed against the Serbian-led, Communist army. He noted that Slovenia now provided logistical support for Nato's peacekeeping forces in Bosnia.

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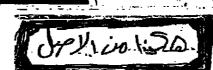
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Father's daughter who holds key to political destiny of Mother Russia

PHIL REEVES Moscow

One of the sharper analogies used to describe Russia these days is that of "King Lear": an ill and ageing potentate presiding over a wildly chaotic land, while his daughters - or, in this case, his daughter stealthily assume control.

The comparison is unfair to Tatyana Dyachenko, Mr Yeltsin's youngest child, who, though no Cordelia, has shown no sign of the greedy ambition of the mad king's other two offspring. Yet no list of Russia's most powerful political figures can now be considered complete without her name.

In the three months since her father was re-elected, she has become a key figure in his new administration, quietly working to hold it together in a period of economic and social strife and ferocious political infighting. Some Russians have even begun to see her, rather than the president's wife, Naina, as the first lady of the Kremlin.

Apart from a few brief, edited, television clips, Mr Yeltsin has remained out of sight while he prepares for his heart operation. Although he has held official meetings, fired off decrees, and communicated with a disillusioned country by radio address, he has become an absentee leader, ruling uneasily from his sanatorium. Masterminding this delicate operaday-to-day is his chief-of-staff and erstwhile privatisation guru, Anatoly Chubais. But alongside him

works the 36-year-old Tatyana. "She is the one who influences her father most," complained a former Kremlin insider. Valery Streletsky, yesterday in an interview in Moskovski Komsomolets news-

paper. "She and Chubais block access to the president. They do not let anyone near him." His remarks were the latest instalment in a complex scandal that has erupted as Russia's ruling claus grapple for power in the dent's absence.

For days, allegations of embezziement, attempted murder, and blackmail have been flying. They centre on the activities of the murky National Sports Foundation, but they are also thought to be part of an elaborate attempt by Mr Chubais (and therefore Tatyana) to discredit his arch-enemy, General Alexander Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's former chief bodyguard, who has been accused of trying to extort \$40m. The motive is simple: to undermine the

be the next president. And, although almost every detail of the scandal is disputed, no one disagrees with the broad claim that Mr Yeltsin's daughter is an active player in the power game. "She is a link between the president and Mr Chubais. said Viktor Kremenyuk, a political analyst, "The two work

popular Alexander Lebed, an

ally of Korzhakov, who wants to

very closely together."
Tatyana Dyachenko first became actively involved in politics in February after pointing out to her father that his election campaign was in trouble. He overhauled his team and invited her to join it, which she did, despite having just given birth to her second son - the older one, 15-year-old Boris, is at Millfield in Somerset. Before long she was the chief go-between between the campaign staff and the president.

A mathematician by training, she is quieter and less volatile than her father, but she can be tough and strong-willed, "When she said no to something, because the president didn't want it, that was it. It meant no. She had a very powerful veto," said Vyacheslav Nikonov, who worked on the campaign.

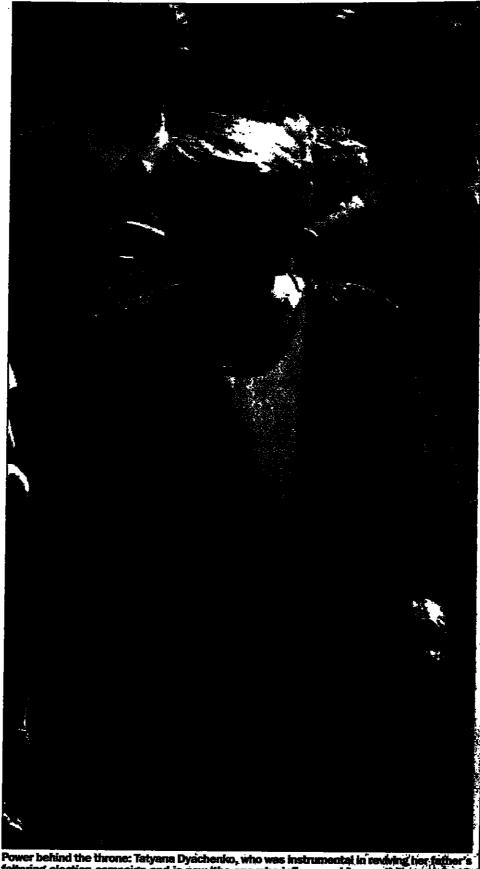
When there was bad news, she was the only one who knew how to break it to her father. She showed a sharp instinct for entation - a valuable asset in an election where television proved important. It was she who persuaded Mr Yeltsin's guards to stop wearing sunglasses because they looked too thuggish.

To date, she has remained largely behind the scenes, mindful, perhaps of the unpopularity of Raisa Gorbachev, whose bejewelled presence in the limelight irritated many Russians. But when 17 children were killed when a bus crashed with a train in the southern city of Rostov last month, it was she who flew to the region as the president's representative.

The question now exercising Kremlin watchers is what is her ultimate motive? Does she covet high office, or is she merely a loyal daughter, helping a troubled father? "What she cares about is her father's place in history," said Mr Nikonov, "She has shown no sign of having political ambitions of her own". But it is hard to be so sure. She is, after all,

■ Fresh doubts about Mr

Yeltsin's bypass operation arose yesterday with a report that he globin levels in his blood. The claim was made by Echo Moskvy radio station, which said the problem was such that few surgeons would recommend an operation in the foresecable future. It was denied by the Kremlin, which said that preparations for the operation were "going according to plan".



faltering election campaign and is now the one who influences him most Photo

French news strike greets. budget cuts

MARY DEJEVSKY

The French government pre-sented its 1997 pudget to par-liament yestending—the crucial one that determines whether Prance will meet the criteria for printing a single European cur-rency by the phraned 1999 start. Although so much depended on yesterday's figures; however, there was precious little drama of the cost that successful Red. of the sort that surrounds Budget day in Britain.

Most of the measures, from the Pro0bn (£7:3) worth of savings to Fr25bn worth of tax cuts were knowá in advance, thanks to a heavy programme of advance publicity by the government. Even if there had been any shocks, though, they would have gone largely unreported. The majority of the strongly unionised journalists were on strike for the day in protest against a clause of the tax package that would phase out special allowances for professional groups, including themselves.

vision news programmes were emasculated, the state monopoly news agency, Agence France Presse, produced a bare diet of foreign news, and the 24-hour news radio station played nusic. Few, if any, of today's newspapers are likely to appear. The government's advance presentation had been designed

to limit public resistance to inevitable spending cuts. Reports in early summer of the tens of housands of jobs that would have to be cut in the public sector were attenuated by early autumn to 5,600, a figure confirmed yes-terday. The prime minister, Alain uppé, went on television six as ago to "sell" the start of a five-year "tax-reduction programme". The response was despread cynicism, but the government pressed on.

Introducing the budget bill yesterday, Jean Arthuis, the Economy Minister, and the Budget Minister, Alain Lamassoure. stressed the efforts being made

to reduce the budget deficit to the Masstricht-required 3 per cent of gross domestic product, the "better targeting" of aid for jobs (actually taking a severe cut), and the levels of spending being maintained. They said that the biggest savings would come from lower debt repayments (because of lower interest rates) and from the next year's net zero contribution to the European Union budget because of "good management"

The budget, Mr Arthuis said, "goes as far as is possible without jeopardising social cohesion". Some modest tax cuts are planned for next year, at the extremes of the tax system, but the plight of the journalists illustrates the difficulties of reforming France's outdated and complex tax system.

Under a measure introduced in 1934 to help impecunious freelances, journalists were awarded a 30 per cent tax exemption that has persisted ever since. Although the benefit has acquired a ceiling of Fr50,000. the beneficiaries now treat the concession as a right.

Madrid - Hundreds of thousands of Spanish trade unionists held a nationwide day of protest against government austerity measures yesterday, in the first big mobilisation since the conservative Popular Party

came to power last March. The day of action was launched by students, teachers and parents in a midday demonstration outside the Education Ministry in Madrid against what unions called "a savage attack by the government on public edncation". Yesterday evening 2 million public-sector workers took to the streets throughout Spain in opposition to a page freeze for public employees. The government insists the measures are necessary to make Spain ready for a single European currency in 1999. Union bosses meet tomorrow to decide on further action, which could include a general strike.

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WHEUK

Dole may go for the jugular in California

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

Bob Dole is warming up for today's vital San Diego debate with Bill Clinton with what aides said would be his most biting attack yet on the ethics record of the President and his administration amid strong signs that he will after all make California the centrepiece of his struggling bid for the White House.

Under mounting pressure from his political advisers to strike hard and even low if necessary, Mr Dole has daily been edging closer to a frontal assault on the character issue. The menu, moreover, is cer-tainly rich - ranging from the dispute over improper White House access to FBI personnel files to Mr Clinton's apparent refusal to rule out presidential pardons for associates convicted in the Whitewater affair, and now the controversy over campaign contributions to the Democrats from Indonesian business figures.

A speech yesterday in San Diego was set to be a foretaste of what Mr Clinton could expect in the "townhall" debate at the city's university tonight.

If the candidate is now to take off the gloves, then the reaction of most Republican activists is "and about time too".

With only three weeks left before voting day, and a daunting lead to overcome, party strategists are dismayed how in the two previous debates neither Mr Dole nor his running-mate, Jack Kemp, have taken opportunities served up on a platter to go after Mr Clinton on the terrain where they believe he is most

But whether the new strategy will work is another matter. Mr Dole is



High hopes: Bob Dole with his campaign plane in Kansas City before he set off for California and the debate with Bill Clinton

across as a loveable but slightly curmudgeonly grandfather padding around the country in carpet slip-

a man who is living more in the past

The risk is, as every political

eration. Try as he might to appear otherwise, he continues to come Clinton, but somehow Mr Dole is who have long since signalled that House bids in 1980 and 1988. who have long since signalled that they are fed up with mud-slinging. The tactics too can only rekin-

dle the image of the "mean" Bob ers. commentator is quick to point out, Dole of elections past, the joyless He appears decent and upright to that if he does go negative, Mr Dole hatchet-man who fell to unlament-

But with desperation creeping into their calculations, the campaign seems to have concluded there is nothing to lose.

Photograph: Jim Bourg/Reuter

hardly less desperate to inject some excitement and controversy into a contest whose dynamics have not changed a whit since early summer. With public interest thus far min-. imal - audiences for the two tele-So too have the American media,

per cent on their 1992 counterparts - scarcely a day passes without a spate of front-page headlines won-dering when Mr Dole will raise the ethics question. Indeed, the "Eword" has now supplanted the liberal "L-word" for pride of place in

American political jargon.
But "going ethical" is not the only quandary facing the Dole cam-paign as it scrambles to decide how best to use the candidate's money and time in the 20 days remaining until 5 November.

The word now is that despite opposition from some advisers. California will be a top priority target. even if that means devoting less attention to traditionally pivotal industrial and Midwestern states such as New Jersey, Illinois and

Pennsylvania. But the logic is clear. No Republican has won the presidency without carrying California, whose 54 electoral-college votes alone are a fifth of the 270 needed for vic-tory. A month ago, Mr Dole's task seemed impossible.

But the campaign is taking fresh heart from an opinion poll by the respected Field organisation show-ing Mr Clinton's lead in the state has come down from an unassailable 20 point or more to just 10 smaller than the President's advantage nation-wide.

Another factor has been intense pressure from Republicans on Capitol Hill, led by Newt Gingrich, not to abandon California.

Deprived of a strong top-ofthe-ticket presence in the state, Mr Gingrich fears the party could lose several of its 27 Congressional seats next month, imperilling both the Republicans current slim maiority in the House of Representatives and his own tenure as

China warns Hong Kong over escaped dissidents

STEPHEN VINES Hong Kong

Peking has accused the United States and Hong Kong governments of encouraging dissi-dents to flee China after the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989, in which several hundred pro-democracy demonstrators died.

Shen Guofang, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, yesterday confirmed that the leading dissident Wang Xizhe had slipped out of China into Hong

in San Francisco. China usually turns a blind eye to the escane of dissidents, being reluctant to highlight their departure and of-ten glad to be rid of them. But Mr Shen's remarks suggest a change of attitude which, he hinted, was prompted by Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese

rule next year. It is clear that the British colony's traditional role as a centre for asylum seekers will end next July. Mr Shen said: "I am sure Hong Kong will become an

Kong. He is now believed to be international financial, economic and trade centre. It will not be a centre for other things".
Tung Chi-wah, the leading contender for the post of Chief

than the future.

Executive of the new Hong Kong government under Chinese sovereignty, yesterday made a rare statement on policy, saying he was sure the territory would forge an extradition agreement with China, and, if he were Chief Executive, he would "act according to the law", meaning that political fugitives would be handed over.

The colony has, historically, given refuge to some of Asia's leading revolutionaries, including Sun Yat Sen, who founded the Chinese republic, and Ho Chi Minh, the leader of the Vietnamese revolution.

Referring to those who have given shelter to Chinese dissidents, Mr Shen said: "We hope. the countries concerned will not have the slightest ambiguity in cracking down on illegal and secret immigration". He accused Mr Wang and his "plotters" of "illegally and secretly crossing

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dissidents to be either at liberty or still in China. He was first jailed in 1974 after putting up a wall poster in Guangzhou, southern China, which protested at repression in the last years of Mao Tse-tung's rule. He was re-arrested in 1981 on charges of spreading counter-

revolutionary propaganda and forming an opposition group. According to Robin Munro. of the US-based Human Rights Watch Asia, China has effec-

the border". Mr Wang is one of the last internationally known tivity in recent years, leaving tivity in recent years, leaving only a handful of active opposition leaders. Wang Dan, one of the best-known former student activists from the Tiananmen protests, is likely to go on trial again this week. He is charged with the capital offence

> Because there are so few active Chinese dissidents at large it seems strange the government should suddenly raise the specaid those trying to escape.

It is estimated that up to 800 over and threatened reprisals if Hong Kong-based Operation Yellow Bird underground railway, whose existence is well known to China.

Only once, in 1990, did the government kick up a fuss about asylum seekers fleeing to Hong Kong. This was when the swim ming champion Yan Yan refused to leave the colony when returning from an internationtre of an international plot to al competition. China demanded that Britain hand him

dissidents have been smuggled he failed to return. He was howout since 1989, mostly by the ever, allowed to go to Taiwan.



Where the centuries have been peeled back. Page 14



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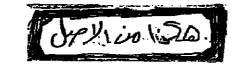
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Cradle of Spanish theatre restored



Henares, site of Europe's first popular open-air theatre

Alcala de Henares

Two inquisitive drama students stepped into a crumbling former ana in a town just outside Madrid and after years of painstaking labour, uncovered Europe's first popular open-air ercial theatre, dating

Unlike its equivalent, Shakespeare's Globe in London, which had to be rebuilt from scratch, the Cervantes Theatre at Alcala de Henares, whose 15year restoration is nearing completion, was revealed by peeling away layer upon layer of accu-mulated theatrical history.

The discovery, in the home town of Spain's greatest writer, Miguel de Cervantes, has left Globe enthusiasts breathless with admiration: "It is a remarkable treasure of which we are deeply envious," said the director of education at the adocument showing that a car-Globe, Patrick Spottiswoode, following a visit to the theatre at Alcala earlier this month. The Globe's chief academic adviser. Andrew Gurr, hailed the Spanish discovery as "the most tan- was the only entry-paying private boxes for the well-to-do,

gible representation of the his-tory of European theatre that there is." theatre in town. He wanted to make money from it," Mr Coso explains, as he steps carefully

Miguel Angel Coso, now a di-rector of the Cervantes Theatre, said he had no idea what he would find when he and Juan Sanz first peeped into the dark-ened building in the spring of 1980, then being used as a warehouse. "Our first discovery was evidence of a Romantic theatre built in 1831 with a rare elliptical auditorium. But then we began to think that beneath this lay a much earlier comul de comedias, an open-air theatre built in the patio of the sur-

rounding houses."
Historical allusions to such a theatre beside the town's ancient marketpiace, now Cervantes Square, set the two students on a 16-year quest whose success owes much to Spain's centuries-long devo-tion to paperwork. "We found penter, Francisco Sanchez, obtained the town hall's per-mission in 1601 to build an open-air theatre on this site and that he paid a tax to ensure his amid scaffolding and 17th cen-

The theatre remained in use for some 370 years, although the local anthorities closed it from time to time over the centuries because of plague, in deference to the death of a king, of fel-lowing complaints from the university that students were spending too much time at plays and shirking their studies.

Documents record complaints of rowdy behaviour, shouting and brawling during performances and, in 1767, the unruly leading of "oranges, sweets, apples, chestnots and tles had to be banned, and smoking allowed only in comdors. Sometimes the army had

to intervene to restore order. Excavation beneath accu-mulated rubble and later additions confirmed the original patio had a cobblestone floor for the groundlings, a separate balarea for women, tiered lateral benches for men and

vate boxes were accessible only from the neighbouring houses their loss of use of the patio for what amounted to a gratis subscription to every performance

an ancient well, to the amuse ment of one of Alcala's local officials who on a recent visit recalled that no one liked sitting in that corner of the old cinema because it was always so

chilly and damp.

"The minute I stopped inside, I could smell and hear the ghosts of people who had been there and played there. It's warm with layers of theatrical history," said Mr Spottiswoode

Rich written evidence of construction contracts, actors' lives and theatre procedures uncov-ered by Mr Coso and Mr Sanz provided a priceless bonns, according to Professor Gurt. "We have so few documents and so They have done a superb job of retrieving the essentials of the original building with absolute



Suharto meets **East Timor** Nobel winner

ALI KOTARUMALOS

Dili - President Subarto of Indonesia met East Timor's No-bel prize wisning bishop vestrates and defeaded his rule in the territory but never men-tioned the 21-year fight to crush its independence movement. The President, visiting East

Timor to inaugurate a giant stat-ue of Jesus Christ as a gesture hands with Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo and took a helicopter side with him. But the op said later that the two ofte little and the president did not mention the Nobel Peace Prize that he shared leader Jose Ramos-Horta for their opposition to Indonesia's domination of the former Por-

tuguese colony. Indonesia annexed East Tim-or in 1976. As many as 260,000 people were killed by military action, disease or starvation in the first five years of Indonesian

rule. Human rights groups say Indonesian troops have tor-tured, beaten and killed civilians in attempts to stifle separatist aspirations.

्रद्धाराचे

President Suharto, who dered the 1975 invasion, was driven from the airport through streets cleared by security forces. In a speech outside the governor's office, he empha-sized his government's achievements in building roads and of religious telerance, shook schools and raising incomes in East Timor.

He struck a drum three times and signed plaques to inaugu-rate the 56ft black marble statue, a road, three bridges and a street named after his wife. Ibu Tien. "The construction of East Timor became part of Indonesia, values that are religious and sacred continue to grow and expand," he said.

Mr Ramos-Horta called the statue "a joke in poor taste". The visit was a stunt to signal Indonesian sovereignty, he said in Sydney, Australia.

significant shorts

Haider lays claim to the people's vote

Radiation fear in Belarus

Scientists have protested against plans to allow the Belarus military to destroy villages contaminated in 1986 by the said the military would cause reliance on expatriate workers, fires and explosions, raising ra-who account for about a third diation levels 1,000 times of the 17 million inhabitants. radioactive dust up to 25 miles away. The plan to have the mil-itary fire on the homes with tanks and raze the village was broached by President Alexander Lukashenko. AP

Dinosaur steps take a walk

The world's only known set of The world's only known set of fossilised Stegosaurus foot-paints, left by a dinosaur about 130 million years ago, have been stolen from sacred aboriginal land north of Broome in Western Australia. The Firebader I and Council said Kimberley Land Council said the theft was discovered last week and power took must have

Showdown for communists on "sweeteners"

A triumphant Jörg Haider The head of the French Com-yesterday claimed his far right munist Party, Robert Hue, Freedom Party was now a se- and his predecessor, the unrious contrader for power in apologetic Stalinist, Georges
Austria following the party's Marchais, are to be ques27.6 per cent tote in the electioned in connection with a tions to the European parlia- long-running corruption scanment Mr Haider said years dal related to party funding. spent trying to demonise him The case centres on allegations had failed and that his open-that a company linked to the ly renophobic party represented the genuine voice of the people. Advian Bridge

Communist Party accepted "sweeteners" totalling Fr13bn from the giant Compagnie from the giant Compagnie Generale des Eaux, which received building contracts by re-turn. Mary Dejersky Paris

Muslim women on the move

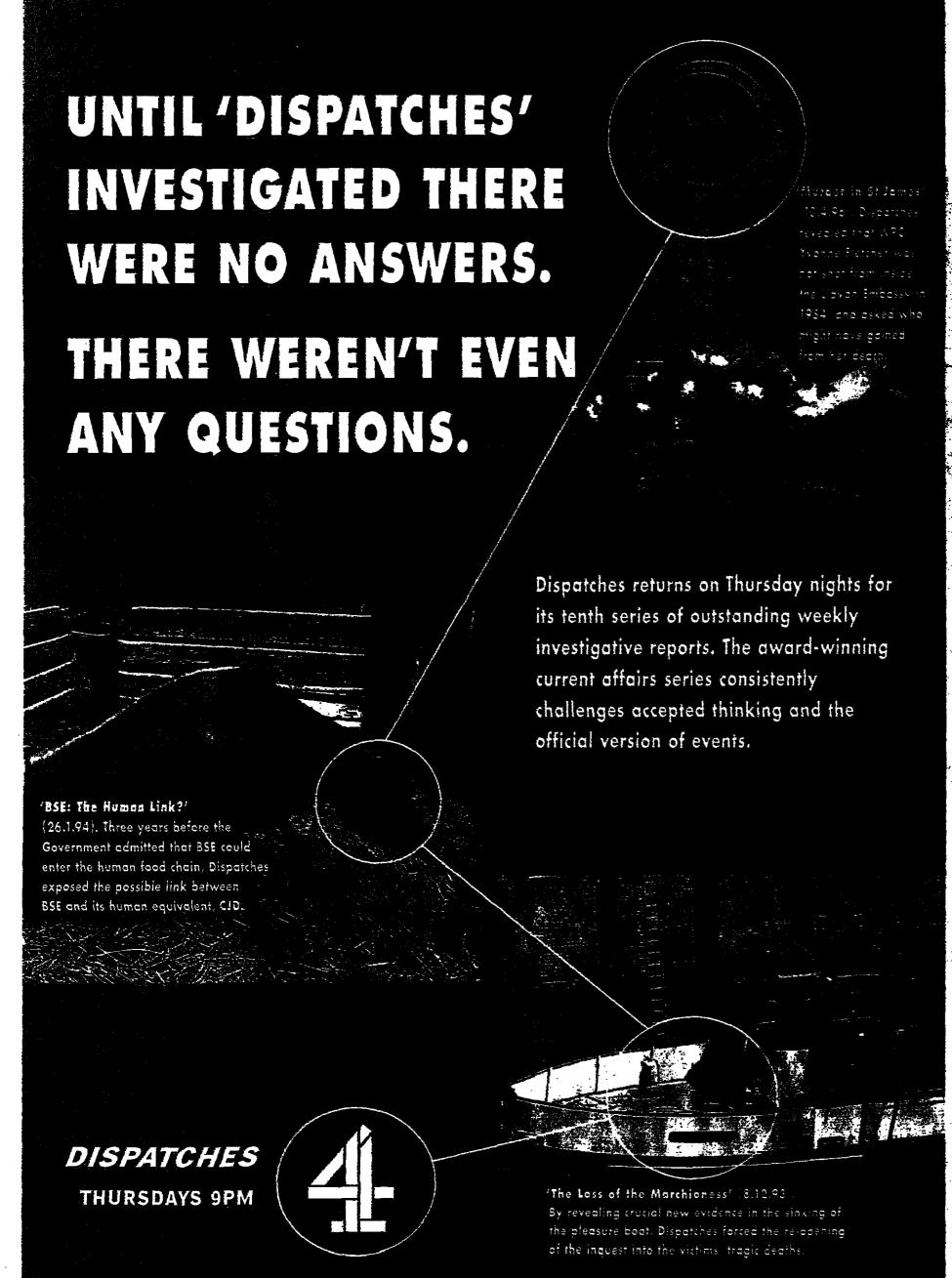
The Saudi monarch King Fahd wishes to increase job oppor-Chernobyl nuclear power tunities for women. The counplant disaster. Radiologists try is trying to reduce its above normal and spreading Saudi women are banned from jobs that may bring them into contact with men who are not close relatives. AP Jeddah

Cologne's peace wall demolished

monument, the "Wailing Wall" of Cologne, was demolished on Monday. The cardboard bricks,

Baby Madonna

been used to remove the prints. The pop singer Madonna, 38, "The footprints have great yesterday gave birth to a girl. spiritual significance for our Lourdes Maria Ciccone Loon. people," Joseph Roe, the cus-todian of the site, said, AP Hospital, John Lyttle, page 16



Another small step along the road to peace

wo steps back and one step forward. The IRA resumes its bombing campaign on the island of Ireland, and a week later a "breakthrough" in the peace process is announced. Confusing it may be, but contradictory it is not. Progress towards permanent peace in Northern Ireland is bound to be slow and stuttering, with plenty of pitfalls

along the way. But it is still progress. Right now the constraining factor is that politicians in Northern Ireland and Britain are in pre-election limbo. The short term pursuit of political support inevitably dominates the longer term negotiations for peace. In the circumstances, any progress - not least the deal David Trimble and John Hume came up with this week - is extremely heartening. It shows that there are votes, as well as lives, in peaceful negotiation rather than violence and belligerence.

The agreement between Trimble's Ulster Unionist party and Hume's SDLP over decommissioning has been a long time coming. Right from the start it was evident to all that the paramilitaries on both sides would not give up their weapons before talks began. Placing guns and bombs at the top of the talks agenda was at best a delaying tactic by the Unionists, at worst sabotage. The deal itself will not change much: the parties have agreed merely to disagree, and to set discussions of decommissioning alongside the main political talks. However, the fact of

agreement is a sign that things are moving in the right direction.

Until now, the Ulster Unionists have stuck with the hard line set by Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists: guns first, then talks. Curiously the IRA's reinstated bombing campaign has given Trimble more leeway in discussion with the moderate nationalists. So long as Sinn Fein is outside the talks (which is as long as the IRA goes on blowing people up) there is no risk that Trim-ble will be seen to be giving in to repub-lican terrorists. Nevertheless, he is still talking to Northern Ireland Catholics. For Unionist and nationalist parties to be negotiating is vital, regardless of whether the paramilitaries are involved.

Even more cheering is the fact that Trimble and Hume have made this decision in this pre-election climate. Both face fierce competition for votes from the more extreme elements in their respective communities. And both have presumably made a calculated decision that they have votes to gain on this deal. In June, Hume's SDLP lost support to Sinn Fein during the elections to the Forum from which negotiating teams were drawn. Hume will be hoping that Sinn Fein's record 15.5 per cent share of the vote reflected direct support for Gerry Adams, and as such represented a vote for peace. Now that the IRA has shattered hopes of a ceasefire it must be hoped that much of that nationalist vote will return to the SDLP.



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Trimble, similarly, has to guard his flank against the Democratic Unionists. A vote for Paisley is a vote against any negotiations at all. By proceeding with talks now, Trimble is gambling that Protestant voters would rather have negotiations than stalemate. Trimble has followed Hume in making the leap of faith that voters prefer peace and compromise to conflict-ridden status quo. In next year's general election, the people of Northern Ireland will get their own chance to leap, and give their more moderate representatives a mandate for

Between now and the election, how-

ever, further progress seems unlikely. The British government is equally bound by politics and the imminent election. John Major may not - yet be directly beholden to the Unionists for support in Westminster. However he would be a brave man if he did anything to jeopardise Unionist votes in the Commons before an election. And the nationalists will inevitably have little confidence in his ability to act as an honest broker in the meantime.

But after the election? Surprisingly it is not so much a change of government that will make a difference to Northern Ireland as a strong government. Whether

thing for the peace process is that the government is not dependent on the support of one side of the troubled province. On the surface, a Blair government would probably adopt a similar approach to that pursued by Major. Labour has made a conscious effort to stick close to the Conservatives' official position on Northern Ireland. And Mo Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland spokes woman, has gone to great lengths to build relationships with all sides.

Beneath the apparent consensus, however, an important underlying difference remains. The Tories start from the union: Labour doesn't. Of course John Major is willing to compromise to achieve a permanent peace, but his gut instinct is that the union should remain intact. Labour's base position is consent. A Blair-led government is therefore more open to a framework which allows for material change in Northern Ireland's relationship to the rest of the UK, and to the Irish Republic.

But for the lifetime of the next government the broad brush approach of any party with a large enough majority is likely to be roughly the same. What may matter most is the commitment and time a new Prime Minister is prepared to devote to the troubles across the water. A fresh, enthusiastic Labour PM will have many matters to which he will want to devote attention: education, employment, and Europe

it be Blair or Major led, the important for a start. But he will need to keep his eye on the ball.

The best prospect for now is that the process begun by Major continues to stumble on, sometimes forwards, sometimes backwards, sometimes progressing, sometimes stalling. It will occasionally deliver. But every time it does, as it did the night before last, we move a pigeon step away from the political vacuum and violence that has plagued us all too long.

One for the road to employment

year's free supply of best bitter for the Policy Studies Institute, which was commissioned by the Department of Education and Employment to look at factors marking men in long-term unemployment. It found that pub-goers who lose their jobs get back to work more quickly than non-drinkers. It's not the beer, but the conviviality. Along with suggestions for the 3.30 at Newmarket, the saloon bar is a good place to pick up tips about jobs. Another counter-intuitive finding is that men with a negative view of work fare better than those with a favourable line. Could it be that employers prefer bolshie types who can't get away from work to the pub quick enough?

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

UK consumer recovery is built on sand

Sir: Diana Coyle ("Failure to invest could kill recovery", 15 October) is

The situation is even more serious than she describes. It is now 17 quarters since Britain hit the trough of the recession. Total investment in the economy is just 6.5 per cent higher now than then. At the same point in the recovery afer the 1981 recession it had risen

Worse still, investment in nanufacturing is actually lower row than it was when Britain was in neession. Indeed it is lower now

The truth is that the Tories have not got the fundamentals of our economy right. They have handed our economic competitors an enormous advantage by failing to invest in the new skills and technologies that are the key to

future success. We are 34th in the world skills league, we invest less in our industry than any of our major mpetitors and we have fallen rom 13th to 18th place in the

It will be for Labour to prepare our economy for the future by o improve their skills, putting inemployed young people back to bork and encouraging investment

Only then will Britain have a ecovery that is meaningful - and hat will last. LAN MILBURN MP Darlington, Lahı cononic Affairs louse of Commons ndon SW7

elamp down on those who crounge from the long-suffering uxpayer ("Yesterday at the onference", 10 October), one ffender seems to have gone innoticed. This is the employer vho pays his employees a wage low mough to make them eligible for Family Income Support, paid from

bublic money.
I suggest that the next Budget should include provision for taxation which would recover from such employers the supplement which we pay to raise people's income to the level required for the

most basic needs. Why should the taxpayer subsidise those entrepreneurs so inefficient that their companies can function only as sweat shops or so shameless that they allow the rest of us to help meet their wage bills? LEONARD PRIDE Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire

Sir: At the Conservative Party conference, Peter Lilley extolled the success of the "hotline" enabling people to inform on social security fraudsters. Fine. However. I understand that even more money is lost to the Treasury by tax

. Strange, therefore, that the Government has not set up a similar "hotline" to enable us to inform on tax evaders. I wonder why. Could it be that too many of these dodgers might turn out to be Conservative voters? R B TAYLOR

whit to argue that investment is the key to lasting recovery.

by almost 23 per cent.

tian in 1979.

With Britain's industries in the loldrums this consumer recovery is ouilt on sand.

vorld prosperity league. iving people of all ages the chance

ubour spokesman on Treasury and

ir. In the recent spate of promises



Michael Heath's Britain: Magazine Award

Men's Hour? I'd run a mile

Sir: Save me from "Men's Hour" as dvocated by Jack O'Sullivan (9 October). I'm a "stay at home and look after the kids" dad, and the last thing I need is a radio programme telling how my penis works.

Seventy-five per cent of Woman's Hour seems to me to be about reproductive organs and nervous tension, that and eating disorders.

I've tried meeting other dads for coffee afternoons and it doesn't work - men are egotistical and cannot stand listening to other men telling them the story of their lives, let along plumbing problems. As for shaving foam, try shaving in the shower, using ordinary soap,

and a razor blade lasts for months.

STEVE OLDFIELD

London W3

Our betrayal of St Helena

Sir: Another "colonial fight" remains to be won, apart from that in Hong Kong ("Fight the last colonial fight, Sir Christopher", 3 October).

As a recent visitor to the island of St Helena, I could not help but become aware of the sadness, even bitterness, among the people there that a promise by an English king, Charles II, that the "natives of St Helena are to be free denizens of England" has been broken, and that their rights of British

citizenship have been removed. Their case is succinctly put in the opening page of the report by the

on Citizenship, published this year: "A grave injustice has been done. Inadvertently, Great Britain has

In 1659 the English took possession of and settled the uninhabited island of St Helena. In 1673, King Charles II confirmed by Royal Charter that the island was to be regarded in perpetuity as a detached part of England, and its inhabitants as

among its citizens. In 1833, an Act of Parliament misclassified St Helena as a colony, but did not repudiate the Royal Charter. In 1981, an Act of Parliament reinterpreted the 1833

disinherited some of her own

Act, so that it did repudiate it." I believe it would be right and proper if the citizenship of "The Saints" could be reviewed and their British citizenship restored. DENYS WHATMORE Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Switch off crime

Sir: Michael Howard? The man's a genius. "No convicted felon will be allowed a driving licence" (report, 8 October) - even now I can hear those crime figures come crashing down. But why stop there? Ban TV licences too. Surely the

thought of no EastEnders or Coronation Street will cause the criminal element to reflect upon their wretched lives and realise that no crime would be worth the risk. TOM CADEN Sheffield, South Yorkshire

The evidence for Surrey generosity

Sir: I suggest that Peter Popham, in his review of Surrey ("Down the A3 to the Middle Ages", 12 October), takes a look at himself when he uses the term "mean-minded". His citing of the tiresome 13-year-old schoolboy golfer, and his equally tiresome problem, was typical of the tabloid papers which The

Independent professes to despise. The article was incredibly one-sided. Has he been round the "real Surrey"? All that whingeing, smacks of the "have-nots' resenting the "haves" - Old and New Labour's "politics of envy". NICHOLAS COX Redhill, Surrey

Sir: Though no one would defend the incident that inspired Peter Popham to journey down the A3, the general picture of Surrey he presents will mislead your readers, and should be corrected.

It is, no doubt, fun to write about pop stars and St George's Hill, but more representative, though less dramatic, are Surrey's garden centres, its old-fashioned (and courteous) driving habits, its public services that work as they should, Come shopping in Weybridge on Saturday mornings, Mr Popham, or walk along the Thames at Walton Bridge. You will certainly see a citizenry at ease with itself, not

impoverished, it is true, but not

showy or snobbish either. When

vour bathroom tiler talks to you

about Russian literature or the

check-out lady at Sainsbury's about her Greek holiday, you realise that the peaceable, democratic capitalism of southern England has much to recommend it. PAUL WODDIS Weybridge, Surrey

Fossils point to aquatic apes

Sir: Jerome Burne ("Did Lucy walk in the woods?", 7 October) overlooks the one explanation for the evolution of bipedalism that fits most neatly with the new fossil evidence he describes.

The location of these fossils in areas once dominated by lake and river formations is compelling evidence in support of the "aquatic ape" theory (see Elaine Morgan's book of the same name) which postulates a semiaquatic stage of uman evolution in which bipedalism develops to maximise the utility of wading both to avoid predators and to exploit the highly nutritious food resources of the quatic habitat.

Morgan has, virtually singlehandedly, been opposing the savannah explanation for over 20 years, pointing out that human volutionary adaptations such as hairlessness, body fat and neoteny, while of negative value to land-bas animals, are common features of aquatic ones. The academic establishment has now every reason to take her work more seriously. CHRISTOPHER HILL. London N7

once a pleasure

Sir: The Weasel's article on pollution at the Venice Lido (5 October) intrigued me. It brought back many memories, and the realisation of how the Adriatic has

changed over the years. I grew up in Trieste (which he would have reached, had he continued to swim) and swimming in the sea was a real pleasure, night sorties in star-studded waters being the norm for us children.

When I went back in the Sixties the sea had lost its purity, and when it got to the Seventies I quickly abandoned my usual habit of taking off my glasses for the water, after being confronted by a dead rat floating past my face, which I had been unable to see in time. Further inspection revealed other sewerage products and, like the Weasel, I retreated pronto.

They tell me that things are now much improved. The article makes me wonder if it is really so. Mrs A BARTRAM Cambridge

Foreign conkers

Sir: Miles Kington claims (8 October) that nowhere else in the world do people play conkers. They do here in Canada, and have for at. least 100 years. They also do in the north-eastern United States, where

No doubt the game was introduced here by the British, but that is not what Mr. Kington claimed in his sweeping exclusion. of the tiny bit of the world called North America. PETER CALAMAI

right to religion Sir: As one who spent 20 years as a

Radio listeners'

religious broadcasting producer at the BBC, I suppose I should be erateful that yet again Polly loynbee has raised its profile ("Give us hellfire, not opiate, in the God slot", 14 October).

I wish, however, that she would distinguish between the moral and the religious. It is a reasonable question to the BBC to ask why it does not engage more in moral broadcasting, in which clearly the widest views should be included. But there is no such department. Religious broadcasting does not

require its producers or its contributors necessarily to be elievers, but it should r them to be those who think that religion has significance. Music producers must like music, news producers must find news

interesting.

Ms Toynbee has every right to think religion rubbish and even dangerous, but for a large number of people it is central to their lives, and they deserve to have it handled with sympathy, though not

uncritically, in BBC broadcasting. It is true that out there in the real world, there are places where religion is ferocious, extreme and savage. And where atheism is too ... as any Russian or Chinese with a memory will tell you. MICHÁELSHOÉSMITH Lydbury North,

Sir: Polly Toynbee, whom I have long admired as a campaigner for social justice, has shot herself in the foot in her extraordinary diatribe against Thought for the Day.

Truth, it appears, is to be found in an uncritical account of the relationship between what religious people believe and what they do -True believers in Jerusalem and elsewhere kill each other." This sits uneasily with her espousal of Wolpert's view that religion is a defence against the permanency of

What saddens and exasperates me is her clumsy and transparent rivalry with speakers on Thought for the Day. They ooze with improper social concern for the Bosnians or the homeless.

For God's sake, Polly, I like it when you coze (you do, you know) and I don't care how improper the concern is, as long as it's there. CHARLES HAMPTON

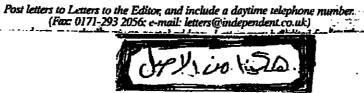
Incorruptible me

Sir: I am, of course, incorruptible, as John Walsh says in his interview with the poet and don (or should that be Capo?) John Fuller ("Full of feeling", 12 October). But as Chair of the judges that awarded Fuller this year's Forward Prize for Best Collection, I didn't need to be quite as incorruptible as he makes

Though long an admirer of Fuller's work, I was never actually one of his students, never at Magdalen, newr at Oxford ... I'm sure that accounts for a lot. ALAN JENKINS London E1

Pour chap

Sir: Is Thames Water's environment manager ("Waterfight that threatens to leave wildlife high and dry", 15 October) really called Peter Spillet? NICHOLAS MEAGHER Newcastle upon Tync



The biggest mother of them all

Once a virgin, now a parent for the very first time. John Lyttle is in awe of Madonna's shrewd career move

Obstetrician's Cut, and day-old. six-pound Lourdes Maria - really, what's wrong with Janet?
Or Beryl? Surely even Sally would be better than plain ture, should have realised - and, let's tell the truth and shame Beelzebub, there does come a past-your-prime-time Silly? - is learning to breastfeed through a conical nursing bra, let us take one day out of life, get into the groove and put our love to the test.

Let us consider how the one natural act of Ms Ciccone's recent career may affect her future as a singer, actress, multimedia role model and consenting adult who enjoys miming masturbation on stage to the perennially inappropriate tune of Like a Virgin

hood may not be as sassy a monster realised that the career move as losing your vir- Empress of Reinvention was Material Girl/Marilyn's successor or publishing a bound. and occasionally gagged, photobook of yourself in various suggestive poses (what was she doing with that depressed-looking German shepherd dog?) tellingly and redundantly enti-

But, as See proved - see your local porn shop's remainder bin - there's only so far a girl can go before wet dreams dry up and what once may have looked like artistic obsession (yeah, right) begins to resemble sheer monomania. Rather

hile we're all Momomania, the role untried, waiting for the than defining yourself solely through blunt sexuality.

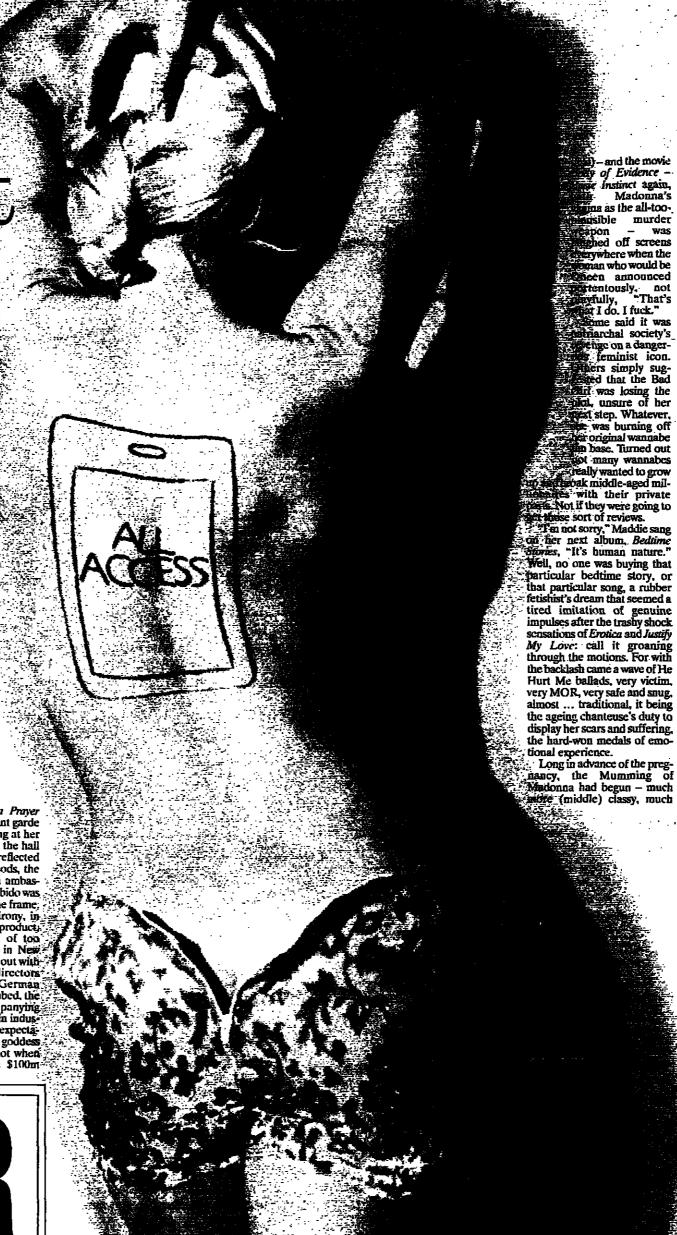
That was always sure to be a dedicated raider of gay culwhen you're no longer a hot young thing fearlessly exposing Western civilisation's hypocritical mores. No, you're actually something perilously close to a Dirty Old Woman, who needs to be told, in a caring, sharing way, to start acting her age, not her shoe size (slingbacks with a stiletto heel, size five).

The brave people who lived to tell Madonna were, of course, the public. A few sampled beats ahead of the What can I say? Mother- critics, the canny, many-headed ginity or proclaiming yourself a running out of new clothes scanties, to be specific – and that, indeed, Madonna might be less the Mistress of the Multiple Image and more a Variation on a Theme (see also Prince, the royal personage we'd most like to see abdicate). Which maybe wouldn't have mattered much if the explicit object of desire hadn't suddealy gone from gung-ho to poface: from Causing a Commo-

tion to Express Yourself. Previously she had made pop culture seem like a game -scamming Pepsi with the blas-

product-linked Like a Prayer video had both the avant garde and hoi polloi shrieking at her rouged cheek - but in the hall of mirrors that once reflected her ever-changing moods, the sador of the liberated libido was increasingly hogging the frame.

Out went any old irony, inflew High Art - the product. one direly imagines, of too many evenings spent in New York's SoHo, hanging out with independent film directors watching obscure German silent movies. Sex bombed, the sales for the accompanying album, Erotica, were, in industry parlance, "below expectations" - never be a sex goddess with a slipped disc (not when phemous" transmission of her you've just signed a \$100m.



would see off sundry rivals, Lloyd Webber musical. Do/don't cry for her ...

Take a Bow pointed the way ("You deserve a reward for the role that you played") putting her back at No 1 in America. Before long she was telling the next guy "You'll See ... it takes more strength to cry, admit defeat", before covering "Love Don't Live Here Anymore" ("You abandoned me"). In between, Daddy and a violent boyfriend took turns smacking her around in the video for 70h Father. As penance went it wasn't quite up to Jody Foster standards - she had to be raped on screen before America felt moved to clear her of any tains William Hinckley's at? tempted assassination of President Reagan - but it certainly made the next stage easies

Madonna, diva. Madonna as diva is desting Destiny cannot be fought, ong quarrelled with. Turns out this what she said when she first mal Barbra Streisand - "I want be you" - was an honest deciration of ambition. Those to tured, torchy songs signal by documentary footage of or sex performed on a miner water bottle. The tramp, turns out, is a lady. Which is why the parts of mother and Evita ("Both projects are my babies," says the smart blonde) are the right roles at a pivotal moment. The first, like it or not, carries (nominally) clear cultural messages: motherhood is not only maturity - a farewell to any lingering odour carries hood, and hello to a child - it allows vulnerability as well as strength. Madonna knows her P's and cues: "I'm net interested in being Wonder Woman in the delivery room. Give me drugs." Just because its true doesn't mean it isn't also a PR release: a flagship statement from the new, emotional, damp cyed Madonna, still upset over Sean Penn ("You abantoned me") and aghast at unflattering maternity wear. It's all a fir cry

leather whips. But she says it with a takle, not ire, in her voice, having finally learnt from Evita thefine art of the politic. The mergy is smooth, even to the trained or jaundiced, eye. As Madoma says, "This is the woman I vas born to play, one self-invented machine perfectly understanting the other. In this month's Vogue and Vanity Fair photo avouts carry a smoother, sleeler. older star, supposedly in a reacter as Evita – but it's the factor that tells the truth, pur. more, it is a declaration of itent. There's a stately aut, a letermined divorce from viat nce was in favour of what is that could be about Evi's history, or about her im rsonator's. Only Madonna a't impersonating. At the benming of her career she was rfectly herself in Desperdy Seeking Susan. In Evita e same holds true. Which could be cause for

from bondage corsets and

ebration or dismay. Either 🔖 Mum's the word.



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The quintessential guide to voguish words



Miles **Kington**

ave you noticed the way certain words swim in and out of fashion? The way a word which hasn't been used commonly for hundreds of years will suddenly emerge blinking into the spotlight. have its short season of celebrity and then get kicked out of the stage door into the alley behind and back into the dictionary?

The word eponymous, for example. By itself it isn't a very useful word. The number of times you want to refer to something which is named after somehody are

less than legion. Yes, we all know by now that a boycott is an eponym, as are guillotine and macintosh and volt and ... well, lots of others, because they are all named after their originator, but it is very rare that we actually wish to refer to the process of something being

And yet often in the past few years I have heard people using the word, as in Do you remember the film of Tom Jones, with Albert Finney playing the eponymous hero?" Actually, what they really mean is the

or becoming eponymous,

"title role", as it is stretching the meaning of "eponymous" slightly to extend it to cases when a book or film is named after the hero, But "eponymous" sounds a lot cleverer than "title role" and that is one of the main reasons why words do have a celebrity season before vanishing. They have got vocabulary cred. They sound grander than they

really are. They cut a dash. They are a fashion accessory. That is why you quite often hear people these days use the word "solipsism" or its adjective, "solipsistic".

Now, solipsism is quite a serious word, and was always used by philosophers to refer to the theory of knowledge which says that the individual cannot really know anything

outside its own range of needs, or, as the Collins Concise Dictionary snappily puts it, "The extreme form of scepticism which denies the possibility of any knowledge other than of one's own existence.

But when you hear people on Start The Week or possibly The Late Review using the word "solipsistic", they are not referring to the extreme form of scepticism which denies the possibility of etc etc. They are using the word as a smart-sounding synonym for "blinkered" or "extremely selfish". Extreme selfishness has become a recognised way of life over the years, giving rise to such passing phrases as "I'm all right. Jack" and "the me generation", which Jonathon Green dates to the early 1970s in his seminal work New Hords. But there has always been needed a trendy word to make selfishness seem more interesting than it is, and finally "solipsism"

has been chosen for the role. Well done, solipsism! You wear the crown previously worn by narcis and autism.

(Yes, autism. Autism did not always refer to a psychological state of noncommunication. Autism means only "selfism", and as late as 1980 you will find "autism" listed in Roger's *Thesaurus* as another word for self-absorption and egocentrism, with no hint of that we now call autism.)

We are always trying to find words which sound more important than the meaning justifies. That is why people say "quintessential" instead of 'essential". That is why, instead of using the word 'important", it sounds more important if you use the word "seminal", as I did when I referred, two paragraphs back, to "Jonathon Green's seminal work New Words". Now, I don't know if it really is seminal, meaning influential and the beginning of something new and original.

I certainly didn't mean that:

I have no idea if Green's

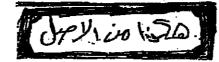
book has had any effect on

anyone except me. When I refer to "Jonathon Green's seminal book". I mean his handy little dictionary in which he has listed a lot of neologisms which often me a long trawl through bigger dictionaries which don't list them ... But I don't say that. I say "seminal",

Other words which have recently become trendy and then been discarded?

Certainly. There's "feral". And there's "cusp". There's "nodal" And there's "epiphany". And there's "shaman" and there's "mimetic" and there's "fatwa" and there's 'jihad" and there's formulaie" and there's 'outreach" and there's "palimpscst"... Ah ! Palimpsest. More of that tomorrow.

Correction and apology. Last week I said that John Major's main task is now to idensity and satisfy the needs of the Tory Party". This of course hould have read John Major's main task is now to identify and satisfy the nerds I the Tory Party". I am sorry if this caused any confusion.



Remembering the meaning of disgrace

questions furore is about Lauthority, the Constitution. Speaker Boothroyd, the nation's matron, was firm and fast in ordering a new inquiry and a debate. Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary ombudsman, has been seen slipping in and out of West-minster, tight-jawed and thin-lipped, the very model of a Victorian public servant.

Inside the Palace, committee-men have scurried silently to promise him whatever powers he requires. On the BBC. Tory MPs such as Iain Duncan-Smith, who we generally hear speaking fluent Young-Turkish, have sounded grave and states-

Across the land, the message has gone out: the Commons will reassert her ancient dignity in the face of all these unseemly newspaper allegations about lobbyists, brown envelopes, grinning men in bow ties, and arm-twisting whips. The snook-cockers shall be punished. Yea, and the sleazeballs and tenner-pocketers will be cleansed from the High Court of Parliament.

It is, is it not, a breastswelling example of the British system in action, doing for us in the Nineties in a minor way what the Spithead Review did

a century ago?
I am not being entirely satirical. The lesson of the past couple of years isn't only that politicians do bad things, and are found out; it is that Parliament - eventually - reacts. The Nolan inquiry, and the rule-changes that followed it.

were big events in the 20th-century history of

Will they go further? The first problem concerns misbehaving backbenchers. The Constitution has assumed for centuries that Members are Honourable Members and cannot be easily punished or reined in. Indeed, an assembly of individuals who could be easily punished, not merely by the party whips, but by the state, would not be a free parliament.

So it has taken a long time for a system sanctions and penalties to develop; and it is sad that it has been necessary. Parliament has always had and used sanctions, particularly in barring misbehaving MPs from the premises. The problem is a modern one not only

because we have had some egregious examples of greed and corner-cutting in the past few years, but because the social norms that controlled public behaviour have dissolved. Once, disgrace was disgrace. Once, a rogue MP would be "cut", disappearing into obscurity or resign-ing from pure shame. Once, too, it would have been impossible to imagine a merchant bank trader, criticised by the Bank of England and sacked after her bank's collapse, claiming a £500,000 bonus at an industrial tribunal.

No longer. Peregrine Worsthorne, the Sunday Telegraph's High Tory columnist, put it well last weekend: "Being disgraced is no longer



what it was ... Social ostracism

is a thing of the past. It would

be surprising, for example, if Neil Hamilton is required to

resign from his clubs or is

invited to fewer parties. Quite probably, he will be invited to

more, since nowadays a whiff of

scandal is more social asset

than liability ..."
This means that the old club-

man-Commons, relying essentially on Perry's world of "chaps' rules", is dead. If stan-

dards are to be maintained, or

rather, perhaps, reintroduced, harsher formal penalties may

They exist. It is well known

that MPs can be rebuked, sus-pended and – if bankrupt – removed. But they can also be sacked for misbehaviour. This

last happened in October 1947

when one Garry Allighan wrote an article, I believe accusing

other MPs of taking cash from

newspapers, and was chucked out after a vote called by one

Quintin Hogg. It may be time for chucking out to return That would be easy enough

to achieve in principle. But there is a bigger threat to the

Commons' reputation than

backbench misconduct. It is

that Parliament has, for so long, been so hopelessly compro-mised by the executive. Minis-

ters change the rules, bend the rules, refuse Parliament the

truth, and put savage pressure on individuals and sometimes

on Commons officials. Gov-

ernment, with its huge reserves

of people and information,

stoked up with impatience of

be required.

Andrew

The Commons must fight against scandal - or accept its

seconddivision status in the new **Britain**

executive authority, has been Parliament's toughest rival. The behaviour of individual MPs in the Hamilton affair may have been bad. But worse, to my mind, is the charge that the Gov-ernment, through David Willetts, now Paymaster General but then a whip, arm-twisted a Commons committee to try to stifle the growing scandal. We should be in no doubt: Speaker Boothroyd's decision to allow an emergency

debate on this today is an important moment. Why? Because it touches directly on the pride of the Commons, and its constitutional independence, at a time when all are tumbling into history. Parliament has lost authority to the judiciary and power to the institutions of the EU. It has lost its unique place as a forum for national debate to the broadcasters and press. Above all, though, it has been cheerfully trampled on by successive governments.

At some point, the Commons must choose between fighting back or finally accepting its second-division status in the new Britain. Peraps we have reached it.

Chucking out the odd bad apple would be a shocking and salutary move. But if MPs are really serious about their purpose, this emergency debate on executive bullying is more important still. Euro-sceptics want Parliament to regain its lustre by fighting Brussels. But the real hattle is nearer to home, and about British government, And it can start today.

Private tolerance and public panic

By Polly Toynbee



In these schizoid times, personal liberality contrasts with a mood of moral hysteria over the breakdown of 'family values'

But is that what it takes these days to win elections? If so, quick-fingered Blair is a mighty fine prestidigitator - now you see it, now you don't. He puts the family values cards down on the table but before you have

time to inspect them he whisks them away again. By magic, all that is left is a perfectly decent speech about decency, peppered with blameless words such as "community", "duty", "responsibility" - who could gainsay these values? Yet he leaves behind a moral taste in the mouth, a word upon the breeze. It's a very clever trick but it won't do. It will not even wash with the right: the Mail leader column demands to know exactly what he is going

to do to shore up family values,

especially in tax and benefits. What indeed? Are his family

values, perhaps, going to be cashable in more money to the

poorest mothers and children on benefit?

This is not, I think, cynical populism on the part of Blair. But he is attempting the very nearly impossible. He is trying to harness the moral concerns of the traditional right and weave them in with the moral concerns of the liberal left about the state of the poor and the dispossessed. This is how he hopes to solve Labour's underlying problem - how to make what is now a very large, reasonably contented, well-off majority care about the underclass. Perhaps it is the only hope of gaining general consent fer the language of generosity,

and altruism The effect, though, is to demonise the poor and to frighten everyone else with the curious idea that what happens on sink housing estates is

somehow typical of the way we all live now. It was ever thus. The Victorians used to love to scare themselves silly with horror stories of gin mothers, rampant prostitution, gangs of child thieves. Tub-thumpers have

moral derelictions of the dregs of society as proof of a general malaise. But a society that is fed a scary self-image of social calamity is unlikely to do the right things. It is now firmly imprinted in the public mind that we are a disaster zone. The words trip off the tongues in every radio phone-in - single parents, wild children, sin and

always pointed with relish at the

crime – hit the panic button! The truth is more complicated. But who is to tell it? When even the party in power paints a catastrophic picture of the society it has presided over for the past 17 years, where is

the voice of moderation and common sense? Of course we have some serious and intractable social problems. What are we to do with the young unemployed, the uned-ucated, the hopeless and criminal tribes that prey on the rest of us? How do we break into the cycles of neglectful and abusive parents who are themselves the victims of genera-tions of bad upbringing? But most children grow up

to be law-abiding citizens, better educated than ever before. with more social mobility and choice about how they want to live than they ever had in the golden Fifties. Some things are worse. Crime is worse. The poor are more alienated. More people, especially chil-dren, are poor. But if we sink into a sea of hysteria, we will never tackle those problems one by one. How do you gen-erate public support for problem-solving approaches to crime and unemployment if politicians give us only the arid language of fear and

despair, not of hope? Why, incidentally, do politicians assume the word "family" is a political synonym for "good"? Not for nothing is Philip Larkin's most famous poem one of the nation's most popular. More seriously. though, if morality is reduced to "family values", then public attention is diverted from some rather more pressing moral

questions.
How will history judge our morals? I continue to hope they will be surprised that apparently decent, prosperous people could live so happily cheek by jowl with those who have nothing. They will wonder why we were so complacent about the sleaze, dishonesty and low expectation of altruism seeping into our politics and public life. They may be angry that we were so deliberately selfish about the fate of the planet. They will wonder why so much emotional energy was squandered on the misdeeds of the poor and so lit-tle on the fraud, corruption and greed of the rich.

No, there was nothing to take issue with in Tony Blair's speech and much to agree with. Yes, we want the Decent Society he describes - of course we do. But it is a great deal more difficult to achieve it if the voters are whipped up into such a moral turmoil about "social disintegration", "social breakdown" "family breakdown" and "the growing tide of lawlessness" that the only remedy seems to be more punishment and a better burglar alarm.

Rail gets its lines crossed

If you have had difficulty telephoning railway inquiries, you are not alone. About 20 million of the 60 million annual callers do not get through. Many people no longer even try. The service, long a source of frustration for travellers, has deteriorated dramatically because of increased demand and because it is being reorganised as a result of privatisation.

From next week, there will be one uni-fied national number, 0345 484950, to call for train inquiries from anywhere in the country. Over the past year, this number has been gradually extended to most parts except London and Merseyside.

It should, of course, be a simple matter to provide train information efficiently and speedily. British Rail, however, never managed it, especially in the face of increased demand as people became accustomed to using the telephone for everything from booking soccer tickets to ordering groceries. Here was a good opportunity for the government to show a concrete benefit of privatisation. But of course they have blown it again out of parsimony. Complaints about the new number have already lleeded my desk.

The system grew up in a haphazard way and was never properly sorted out by BR. Providing train information is expensive and unrewarding because there is no immediate financial transaction. In the (very) old days, it used to be possible to telephone your local station and an underworked clerk would happily take you through the nooks and crannies of the rail network. Then the service was consolidated

at main stations or centralised bureaux. In London, there were four numbers to dial, depending on your destination. It was confusing for tourists and others who did not know the difference between the East Coast and West Coast mainlines (which in any case are srupid names for lines that both go through central England nowhere mear the coasis until they reach the North).

Even when you did get through, the information was often inaccurate, as bome out by surveys by the rail users group, which showed that all but two or three of 45 inquirers were wrongly informed about

Then came privatisation, which brought in its wake a fundamental problem. Tra-

By Christian Wolmar



It's like BA telling callers that British Midland is cheaper

the parts of British Rail providing the services, which lately were InterCity, Regional Railways and Network SouthEast. With privatisation, these three were split into 25 train operators and some of these compete

with one another. The Rail Regulator, John Swift, had to devise a system which ensured that all information provided was impartial, and did not favour one operator against another. This is not easy. For example, if you are going from London to Birmingham, most trains go from Euston run by InterCity West Coast, but the cheapest services, run by Chiltern, go from Marylebone but take half an hour longer. So, in theory, the operator is supposed to tell every caller asking about cheap trains about the Marylebone services. which will take ages and lead to even more delays in getting through. It's like expect-

Midland is cheaper and its schedules more convenient. Which? magazine has twice highlighted this issue and found that virtually no one provides "impartial" informa-tion. It is not that Mr Swift is wrong, it is that the whole notion of splitting up BR into competing operators is flawed.

We live in curiously schizoid

times: so much public com-

ment is at variance with most people's private experience. In the real world people are more liberal than ever before. They

are less censorious, more openminded about cohabitation,

homosexuality, babies born out of wedlock and divorce than at

any time in history. Soap operas

tell the story very well. Within

families and among communi-

ties of friends and colleagues,

we are tolerant as never before.

Freedom brings more diversity, more choice - but the flip side

of freedom is more risk, danger

and dislocation. It is exceed-

ingly difficult to have one with-

out a measure of the other.

Though of course Blair is also

right to assert, "Social morality

is not in opposition to liberty,

but in fact the only way in

which the individual can enjoy

however, the public mood -

generated by politicians, the

right-wing press and think-tanks - is increasingly illiberal

and intolerant. Tony Blair laid

down very careful caveats -

no, he is not scapegoating sin-

gle parents, working mothers.

gays nor even sex, drugs and

rock and roll. Yet alarm bells

still ring at his words. His

speech was designed so cleverly

for the front page of the Daily

Mail (to whom it was given

first), with the triumphant headline "Blair's family values

crusade", which chills the cock-

les of more liberal hearts.

Despite private tolerance,

Moreover, there is the problem of "local" information. In the past, you phoned the local bureau, but now the 45 bureaux around the country will be linked through the 0345 number. While the new system initially directs calls to the local centre, once there is an overflow, which seems to be most of the time, the call can be routed anywhere in the country.

Operators, many of whom are in the biggest centre, at Newcastle, will have no idea of the local services in your area. It is a lot to expect of clerks in Havant (another big centre) to know anything about regional train services in Fife. They will not be helped by the fact that the information for different services is not on a single com-puter programme but several. And information about delays and engineering problems will have to be sent out by each of the 25 train operators to each of the 45 bureaux.

Moreover, as some of the complainants to me have already pointed out, you can't buy a ticket off the 0345 number. Instead, you then go to the local train operator. It's as if you rang a theatre to buy a ticket but they couldn't tell you the time of the performance. As for details of complicated journeys, forget it. One correspondent tried to get information about getting from Bristol to Boulogne via Folkestone and it took him an hour and a half and

innumerable calls. As ever, the new system is desperately under-resourced which is why so many calls go unanswered. Despite all these problems, would have been possible to create a good national service. The Dutch do it, simply by making every transport provider - whether buses, trains, ferries or trams contribute towards the national inquiry ser-

vice which covers all forms of transport. But here, the ideology got in the way. A well-funded national service, paid for by providers and possibly with a bit of taxpayers' dosh thrown in, is too redolent of socialist ideals to be introduced by a Tory government. I suspect that 0345 484950 will

Semaphore for the tongue tied

icholas Soames, bon viveur, toff, and old boy sported an old school tie in the Commons yesterday although, in an effort to make the Tories the people's party, the Prime Minister has declared that new Labour means old school tie. But even the Prime Minister cannot erase the importance of

the tie in Westminster. In a world where variety in suits comes in shades of grey,

the tie is more than a fashion the party's logo. ment. It is a notice board that tells whether you are one of us". John

Maior's shiny grey tie sums up his belief in the classiess society.

The rest of his Cabinet sat on the front bench for Prime Minister's questions wearing a variety of shades which looked as though they were taken from the dowdier shelves of the Tie Rack. But defying the order to be bland, the Minister of State for Defence went on a shopping expedition for a new Old Etonian tie at his tailor's in St James's to wear when he wound up the two-day defence debate in the Commons.

As an act of defiance to the leadership, it ranked as one of the more colourful protests. The OE tie - black with a narrow light blue stripe - was set off by a starched white collar and blue shirt. Mr Soames supports the Prime Minister on almost every issue, but on the question of the old school tie,

to make a stand. Tam Dalyeli, one of the two Old Etonians on the Labour benches - the other is Mark Fisher - also happened to be making his own point to

his leader, Tony Blair. The veteran MP for Linlithow, who was the late Nicholas Ridley's fag at Eton, was wearing a green tie bearing the motif of a sheaf of corn and crossed pen with hoe - the symbol of old Labour before the red rose was introduced as

> the most popular ties in the Commons carsalmon

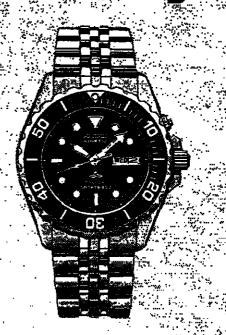
stripes of

the Garrick. Ken Clarke used to wear it day and night, until he got fed up with the jokes

Yesterday, David Shaw, the Tory MP for Dover, had a more restrained yellow and red striped tie with the Commons portcullis - the Royal Marines dub of the House of Commons. As the MOD - and Mr Soames have closed down the Marine band school at Deal in his constituency, he is wondering whether he will be allowed to go on wearing it.

Lord Mason, the former Labour defence minister, is a tie collector. He used to sport a tie carrying Royal Navy Harrier jump jets. Once, when defence spending was under a squeeze, he was able to complain: "There's more jump jets on my tie than in the Royal Navy."

Good-bye battery



Welcome to the future: Selko Kinetico, the first quartz watch that turns your movement into 47 power. Every move you make is converted into electrical impulses by a tiny built-in powerhouse. Ecological, reliable and efficient: wear it one day to gain energy for at least two weeks. Wear it. daily - it will run continually. Made of titanium: light, yet strong and kind to your skin. 20 har water resistant. One-way rotating bezel and screw lock crown. Selko Kinetic - it's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way,

Seiko Kinetic at: http://www.seiko-corp.co.jp

Lord Finsberg

Once, in 1974, I was sharing a taxi with Geoffrey Finsherg, from the Cafe Royal to the House of Commons, I mentioned, casually, that I had heard a rumour to the effect that, in a coming reshuffle of Shadow Cabinet posts, he would be offered the agriculture portfolio. He pounced eagerly and asked to know my source. which, of course, I could not give him. I confined myself to saving that the source was pretty senior, but that I would not put over-much weight on it. He relapsed into the gloom that from time to time affected him in those days, as he saw political life pass him by. After a moment, however, he spoke again.
"But there aren't any farms

in Hampstead." I was a trifle taken aback by this evidently very serious response to a trivial remark, made simply to pass the time. I muttered something about the then nascent city farm movement, and he brightened up. Then, just as we approached the House, he went off on a different tack.

'You're a young man." he said. "What do you think of this disaster that's happening to the Young Conservatives?" (When Finsberg joined the YCs their membership was comfortably over 100,000; on the day of his death it was, on an optimistic

estimate, about 3,000.) I told him that I had never had any desire to join an or-ganisation which, with a few exceptions. I believed consisted of a lot of gin-swilling, sex-mad louts. "You're very wrong." he said as we got out of the road. "Road to Parliament, the YCs." The next time I saw him was on the terrace of the House. He was reading a pamphlet on farming in cities. But, alas for him, he never got the call to agriculture.

Geoffrey Finsberg was born in 1926 into a devout Jewish family of Conservative political inclination. He began to hew out his own political path by joining the YCs whom I so despised, and fell under the spell of Lord Woolton, who had founded the YCs and become chairman of the Tory party after the general election disas-ter of 1945. It was Woolton who took a demoralised party by the scruff of the neck, and made it into the most formidable election-winning machine in the Western world, vastly admired by those who sympathised with its aims and hated and feared by those who

opposed it. Finsberg was not merely Jewish, he had also gone to the City of London School which, though it was an admirable school, did not rank very high-

ly in the estimation of Conservative constitutency associations looking for young and fresh candidates to rebuild the fortunes of the party. Woolton, however, had radical ideas; and when Finsberg worked for him for a brief period he digested. and acted upon, those ideas.

First, Woolton - given a free hand by Winston Churchill - decreed that those who wanted to stand for Parliament in the Conservative interest should be severely restricted in their right to make personal financial contributions to their constitutency associations: this stopped the pre-war blight of rich young men virtually buying nomina-tions. Henceforth associations would have to raise money door to door which, naturally, brought the party back into touch with the people.

Second. Woolton was determined to inject youth into an ageing party: hence the YCs. Third, Woolton was determined to make a major assault on local government in towns and cities. Hitherto, while rural local government was generally regarded as a Tory preserve. urban areas were regarded virtually as the fiels of Labour.

All three of these ideas were

meat and drink to young Geoffrey Finsberg and, at only 24, he became a local councillor. Although he was, much later, to develop an interest in foreign policy and defence matters, his political roots were in local government and the YCs. He did not consider the youth movement of his party to be something frivolous. Its critics at the time often referred to it in scorn as a glorified marriage bureau. But Finsberg was not in search of a rich wife (as many of his contemporaries were) and it was not until 1969 that he married Pamela Benbow Hill. who died seven years ago; in 1990, in retirement, he married

an old friend, Yvonne Wright. Finsberg worked his way with assiduity through the world of local government. Among many



Finsberg: a Bevin boy who might

elective appointments he was leader of Camden council from 1968 to 1970 and deputy chairman of the Association of Municipal Corporations from 1969 to 1971. He had a deep, and almost tactile, understanding of how local government worked and he was a formidable administrator. Few dared to cross his path for, besides being immensely knowledgeable, he could be exceptionally vain and

overbearing; and he did not forget enmities. In the upset Conservative general election victory of 1970 Finsberg was elected to the House of Commons as Member for Hampstead. And then his career began to peter out: the memory of the wonders of the Woolton reforms had faded and, besides, the Tories now had leader and prime minister of working-class background and were not particularly disposed to heap plaudits on every Tom, Dick of Harry who had managed to find a seat. Finsberg might have done better in the Labour Party, for he had been a Bevin boy, working in coal pits under the aegis of the Minister of Labour, Ernest Bevin,

during the Second World War. Ministerial advancement was a long time coming. He was a member of various House of Commons select committees and between 1974 and 1979, opposition spokesman on matters pertaining to London. He did this job well enough to make him, successively, a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Employment, the (then) Department of the Environment and the Department of Health and Social Services.

But it was clear that he was going no further up the minis-terial ladder. He found a new interest in affairs European and served both the Council of Europe and the Western European Union with his customary industry. It is interesting, though, to observe that, of all the many directorships and advisory posts in business that Finsberg took after he had left office, every one was in some way concerned with local communities, local affairs, local government. In the end - to use a phrase now popular - Geoffrey Finsberg came home.

Patrick Cosgrave Geoffrey Finsberg, politician: born London 13 June 1926; MBE 1959; MP (Conservative) for Hampstead 1970-83, for Hampstead and Highgate 1983-92; Knight 1984; created 1992 Baron Finsberg; married 1969 Pamela Benhow Hill (died 1989), 1990 Yvonne Wright; died Stockholm 8 October 1996.



Paul Weston

The arranger, conductor andcomposer Paul Weston is some-times credited with the conception of "mood music" on record. Certainly his albums of classic popular songs and melodies, given smoothly rhythmic presentation, influenced a whole generation of orchestras for, where conductors such as André Kostelanatz had presented popular melodies in con-cert style, Weston applied dance tempos and big band textures.

As a composer, he wrote the standards "I Should Care" and 'Day by Day", both big hits for Frank Sinatra. As orchestrator, he conceived sterling arrangements for Tommy Dorsey's band and such vocalists as Dinah Shore, Doris Day and the singer to whom he was married for 44 years, Jo Stafford.

Born Paul Wetstein in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1912, he played piano and led a dance band at Dartmouth College (New Hampshire), then at- Dreaming, it was a great success tended Columbia University. In and established the concept of 1934 he sold his first arrangement, to the bandleader Joe Haymes. This caught the ear of Rudy Vallee, who employed him to work on his radio show The Fleischman Hour. When Tommy Dorsey took over Haymes's band in 1935 he hired Weston as staff arranger. The Dorsey classics "Song of India", Care" (written with Axel Stor-

"Stardust" and "Night and Day" resulted, along with dis-tinctive settings for the band's vocal group the Pied Pipers, one of whom was Jo Stafford.

In 1940 Weston decided to freelance, working for Bob Crosby's band, for the vocalists Dinah Shore, Lee Wiley and Ginny Sims, and as chief arranger for the weekly radio show Duffy's Tavern. He did band arrangements for the Crosby-Astaire movie Holiday Inn (1942), then Johnny Mercer hired him as music director and ultimately artists and repertoire chief for the newly formed

Capitol Records in 1943. Here, besides choosing material and providing arrangements for their leading vocalists such as Margaret Whiting and Peggy Lee, he formed his own band to create an album of lush melodies played by soaring strings against a muted brass background. Called Music for "mood music" (a term Weston disliked). Deceptively simple though richly textured (Weston used top musicians as soloists), danceably rhythmic and easy on the ear, it was to influence later work by such leaders as Percy Faith and Jackie Gleason.

of a Romance and became a hit record for Sinatra. One of his coups at Capitol was to discover an obscure art song of 1868, "Whispering Hope", and adapt it as a duet for Jo Stafford and Gordon MacRae - it sold over a million copies.

Moving to Columbia Records

dahl and Sammy Cahn) was in-troduced by Robert Allen in the Esther Williams musical Thrill

in 1950 he conceived a string of orchestral albums with titles like Music for a Rainy Night, Caribbean Cruise and Melodies for Moonlight, and wrote arrangements to back vocalists snch as Rosemary Clooney, Doris Day, Frankie Laine and Jo Stafford, who became his wife in 1952. The previous year, Stafford had a No 1 hit with a Weston

composition, "Shrimpboats". The pair also did some beautiful albums together which have been frequently reissued, including Ski Trails, an evocative collection of "wonderfulwinter songs to be played at the end of a perfect skiing day", and "I'll Be Seeing You", a nostalgio collection of Second World War ballads (retitled G.J. Joe on its CD reissue). With Weston on piano he and Stafford had a more surprising success with four albums in which, billed as "Jonathan and Darlene Ed-

wards", they presented well-

known songs in excruciatingly off-key renditions - ironically Stafford is considered to have the truest sense of pitch of any vocalist

In 1968 for one of Ella Fitzgerald's legendary "Song Book" albums, a two-disc set devoted to Irving Berlin, Weston incorporated some fine jazz musicians into his regular band line-up to produce one of the best albums of the series.

After another spell with Capitol Records, Weston turned to television, including The Danny Kaye Show, and in the 1970s came out of retirement to be musical director for the Disneyland show Disney on

In recent years Weston and Stafford, who had one of the happiest marriages in show business, spent much of their time with their children and grandchildren, but they also ran their own record company, Corinthian Records, dedicated to reissuing the classic albums

Tom Vallance

Paul Wetstein (Weston), composer, arranger and conductor: born Springfield, Massachusetts 12 March 1912; married 1952 Jo Stafford (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 20 September

that has served the county so well over the past 25 years.

Derek Hodgson John David Benbow Robertson, cricketer: born London 22 February 1917; married; died 13

Professor E. J. H. Corner

E. J. H. Corner's contributions to our understanding of flow: ering plants may have been less focused than for fungi but they surely are as important, writes David G. Frodin [further to the obituary by Professor T.C. Whitmore, 21 September].

His "durian theory" (which was translated into French in the 1960s) may have relied strongly on rhetoric, but this was as much asset as liability. It was posited to provoke, to express a point of view at a time when our understanding of the tropical forest was little more than rudimentary. It was not necessarily to be taken at face

With respect to "thinking big", in addition to his work on the hundreds of species of figs. Corner more than once called attention to other great, easily recognised but often littlestudied and imperfectly understood plant groups, among them groundsels, acacias, solanums, spurges and begonias He early called attention to the importance of studying tree form, by conventional botanists much neglected but for which a set of parameters began to take shape, largely in conti-nental western Europe, at the end of the 1960s.

It was all part of a common understanding, rooted in earli-er work by Arthur H. Church at Oxford, which informed his approach to plants and fungi. He may not have known, but what came to be dubbed "Corner's Rules" garnered support from work in the 1980s by the American ecologist Peter S. White. Further exploration of his ideas should be part of the research programme of what now is called biomimetics (the study of the architecture of organisms in relation to internal and

external physical forces). He also contributed to the epistemology of taxonomy; in comments about the pitfalls of classificatory "grades" (ho-moplasies) he was at one with some of the basic tenets of Henningian phylogenea. (cladistic) systematics; similarly, he argued that the lack of fossils should not be an obsta-

cle to a phylogenetically based Corner's long retirement indeed was productive, but conducted mostly from his nome in Great Shelford, doubled in size in the 1970s with a corresponding increase to an

already large garden. On university matters he was often conservative, perhaps sometimes too much so. That he was strongly opposed to the introduction of a sociology programme in the late 1960s might be seen as good; but he was also opposed to co-education in the colleges and accordingly resigned his fel-lowship in Sidney Sussex in the early 1970s over their admission

What he may have made of more recent developments such as Management Studies perhaps should remain unsa-It should, however, remain an eternal shame that tropical botany was discontinued by Downing Street on his departure; the department of what is now, fashionably, Plant Sciences ever since has been the

Finally, no account of John Corner would be complete without mention of his devoted second wife Helga, who gave him unstinting support and companionship until some three years before his death when her spirit was called from

in all matches and hit 18 centuries, Bill Edrich of Middlesex scored 3.530 runs and 12 centuries in all matches, Jack Robertson scored 2,328 runs and 11 centuries for Middlesex alone and yet is hardly remembered. Robertson was a tall, hand-

In that golden summer of

1947 Denis Compton of

Middlesex scored 3.816 runs

some, stylish right-hand batsman whose greatest mistortune was to be born at the wrong. time. A highly accomplished player, he opened the Middlesex innings for 22 years on either side of the Second World War, averaging 38, yet appeared in only two home Test matches, on both occasions being felt first-choice players could be

called upon when injury had removed the favourite.

As an opener he had to compete against one of the great England opening partnerships, Hutton and Washbrook, while with Middlesex he came to be regarded as the man - along with his long-term partner Sid Brown - who laid the platform in the morning upon which the glitterati Edrich and Compton would perform in the afternoon

He passed 1,000 runs in a season 14 times in England (and once overseas), continuing to 2.090 runs in nine seasons, and was chosen for two overseas tours, this in the days when England, then represented by MCC.

Births.

Marriages

& Deaths

HAVHOE: Michael Jan. on 14 October, studienty but pericefully at home, aged 60 years. Beloved husband of Jean, devoted and much-loved father

ol Aissoura and Andy, Rachel and Steve dotting grandfuther of Elizabeth, Patrick, Jessen and Francesca, Fu-neral service at City of Norwich (Eartham) Crematorium on Mondry 21 October at 10.30am, Fomily flow-pour but, Jessey at 10.40am, Jessey

ers only, but donations are welcome for Wymondham Christmas Lights Fund co R.J. Bartram and Son.

Funeral Directors, Wymondham,

OSBORNE: North Evelon (formerly Hinde, nee Steeds), died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday marning 13

October, aged 50 years. Funeral ser-vice to be held on Thur-day 17 Oc-tober at 5t Nicholas, Church, Kelston,

at 12 noon followed by cremation at Haycombe. No flowers by request

Donations to paediatric charities Enquiries to E. Hooper & Son, tele-phone 01225 422440.

For GAZETTE, telephone 0171-293 2011.

rested from trips to Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Jack Robertson

Robertson and Brown, aged 21 and 21 made their debuts for Middlesex in the Parks in May 1937. Roberston batted at number six against Oxford while Brown opened with one E.W. Swanton, of whom more was heard later. Roberston was offered a one-year contract and Brown almost went to Kent, but, when cricket restarted in 1946, the pair made history in one of those social nuances much loved by the game's historians.

MCC, who had told Middlesex in 1938 that they could not play Nottinghamshire at Lord's because the ground was relented sufficiently after the war to decree that all players would now enter the field from the centre door of the pavilion. thus abolishing the little sidegate, alongside the pavilion. from which the professionals, as opposed to the amateurs, took the field. Robertson and Brown. accordingly, became the first paid servants to stride out to bat down the pavilion steps.

By 1947 any captain who lost the toss to Walter Robins. the Middlesex captain, on a good batting pitch, returned to the dressing room with his heart in his boots. Robertson, Brown, Edrich and Compton represented, to opposing bowlers and fielders, the Four Horsequired for Eton v Harrow, re- men of the Apocalypse, such showing his feelings by taking

was the weight and power of their strokeplay. Robins, a very shrewd tactician, knew his bowlers needed

In 1945 his song "I Should

the maximum time to oust opponents, in three-day matches, so his orders to his batsmen were succinct: "350 by 5.30, at the latest." On one occasion Robertson, a solid and satisfactory 60 not out at lunch, was told: "Get on with it, Jack. They've not come to watch you

hat, anyway.' In 1949, when Washbrook was injured, Robertson joined three other Middlesex players in the England side to play New Zealand at Lord's. He scored 121 and was dropped for the next match, for once perhaps

331 off Worcestershire at New Road on the opening day of the next Test. His consolation was to be named one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of 1949. In that season he scored

2,917 runs at an average of 57 without convincing the selectors. There have been few better players of fast bowling. He also bowled a useful off-break and was a good fielder anywhere. He retired in 1959, a cultured

and modest man, much admired and feted by the Middiesex cognoscenti, and became first assistant coach and then head coach to Middlesex, in which position he was later to receive much praise from Mike Brearley for his setting up of the coaching and scouting system

Asylum seekers were in need of council care

Westminster CC, ex parte A; or any other circumstance are in (Treasury Solicitor) for the Secretary Queen's Bench Division (Mr Justice Collins) 8 October 1996

An asylum seeker who had no means of support and would otherwise be left starving and homeless was someone who was "in need of" a local authority's "care and attention" within the meaning of section 21(1)(a) of the National Assistance Act

1948. Mr Justice Collins granted judicial review applications by four asylum seekers against the refusal of the three local authorities for Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, and Westminster, to provide them with

Section 21 of the National

(1)...a local authority may with the opproval of the Secretary of State, and to such extent as he may direct shall, make arrangements for providing: (a) residential accommodation for persons aged 18 or over who tion for persons aged 18 or over who by reason of age, illness, disability

LAW REPORT

16 October 1996

need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them . . . of State.

Each of the applicants was Mr Justice Collins said it was an asylum seeker who was by clear that the words "or any virtue of the Asylum and Imother circumstances" were in migration Act 1996 now inelitended to cover eventualities gible for any social security not foreseen and to ensure benefits or housing. Each was that there was a safety net to destitute and must either starve protect those who were in need without a roof over his head or of care and attention. The return to the country from whole purpose of the 1948 Act which he had fled. was to ensure that no one The applicants sought help would be left destitute because

of an inability to fend for himself. The subsequent amendments to the Act did not affect this construction of section 21(1)(a). Rather, they confirmed the intention that it should be available as a safety net for those unable to fend for themselves and who were therefore in need of care and

attention. "His Lordship regarded R v Kensington and Chelsea RBC. exp Kihara (Law Report, 3 July 1996), as persuasive authority that in construing section 21(1)(a) the ejustem generis rule did not apply to restrict its scope in the way the respondents argued. In that case the Court of Appeal held that asy-

him seekers could be "vulnerable" within the meaning of section 59(1)(c) of the Housing Act 1985 and so have a priority need for housing, thus imposing a duty on a local authority to provide it. The court rejected the argument that the "other special reason" for vul?" nerability in section 59(1 kc) must be of the same genus as the immediately preceding "old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability".

The same reasoning applied to section 21(1)(a). The words "any other circumstances" were free-standing categories which, though they had to be construed in their context, were not restricted by any notions of physical or mental weakness other than such as were inherent in the expression "in need of care and attention".

; : =

In ordinary English usage, someone who was unable to provide for himself the basic necessities of life could properly be said to be in need of care and attention. He needed at least shelter, warmth and food.

It seemed, therefore, the section 21(1)(a) did impose a duty on the respondents to provide for the applicants if satisfied any of them had no other means of support

Paul Magrath, Barrister

BIRTHS TROUP: Tamand Lucy (nee Hotchkes) proudly and unce the arrival of twins, Placeber variational Lib Father, on Fri-dry 110 Scrober, St. Michael's Hospital Branch

DEATHS

EDWARD: Jane Gabriel Mary, peace-tully on 12 October at St Wilfred's Hospice, Clindrester, surrounded by her Lamby Private Lamby funeral service will take place at 12 moon on Wednesday 13 October at SS Feter & Paul West Wivering Ametional ser-vice will be amounted at a later date. No flower Donations please to be made to St Creatge's Hospital, Speend tractees. Concer Veccine Com-page and sent to Edward White & Sons, 5 South Pallant, Chichester,

West Sursey POPP ISY. FRM: On 13 October 1986; Navan Josep. FRY On 13 October 1986) Swam noves, of Dulcerton, peacefully at the Mane Curie Centre, Twerton, and 50, Belowed daughter of Joan and Howard and order of Jennater and John, Puneral service at Tounton Drane Crematorium on Monday 21 (kinder at 12 noon, Donation of a ared to Mane Cane Centre, c o I D. Bodger Funeral Director, 35 Battle-

GORDON-BROWN: Lin, dark aged 71, 5 Outober, peacefully in bed, unex-perfedly and suddenly. Will be great-ly missed by all.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROYAL ENGAGENTEN 18
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n 10 th, Great Hall, Board Hospital Chellers, London SW: Frances Chemidian Patron, resist the House of Schurden in Scho, I Great Street, London W. Lomark it, 19th, anniver are unitarily Patron, attends a Receptory and Concert to the Foreign Springer Moreum Teneral Content of Hospital Springer Content of Chemidian Content of Chemidian Content of the Content of the Chemidian Content of the Content of the Chemidian Content of the Conte

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Mr Peter Bowles, actor, 60: Dr Ste-lan Buczacki, biologist, author and broadcaster, 51: Mr Max Bygraves, entertainer, 74: Mr David Congdon MP, 47: Mr Michael Forsyth MP, Seeretary of State for Scotland, 42; Sir Charles Fraser, vice-chairman, United Biscuits. 68: Mr Paul Gallagher, trade-union leader, 52; Mr Gunter Grass, novelist, 69; Dr Walter Grave. Hon Fellow, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 95: Mr Terry Griffiths, snowker champion, 49; Lt-Gen Sir Robert Hayman-Juyce, Master Gen-eral of the Ordnance, 56; Miss Ansela Lansbury, actress, 71; Sir John Lindsay. High Court judge. 57; Lord MacDonald of Gwaenysgor, former chief executive, Plessey, 81; Lord MacLehose of Beoch, former Governor of Hong Kong, 79; Mr Hugh MacMillan, Chief Constable, Northern Constabulary, 64: The Most Rev Thomas Morris, former Roman

Catholic Archbishop of Cashel and Emb. 82: Miss Emma Nicholson MP. 5; The Rev Dr John Polkinghorne, President, Queens' College, Cambriden, oo: Mr Simon Ward, actor, 56: Mr William Webb, artistic director, London College of Music, 49; Mr John Whittingdale MP, 37.

Anniversaries

Births: Owar Fingall O'Flahertie Wills Wilde, playwright, 1854; David Ben Gurion, statesman, 1886; Eugene Gladstone O'Neill, playwright, 1888; Michael Collins, Irish leader, 1890; Enver Hosha. Albanian prime minister, 1908. Deaths: Luca Signorelli, painter, 1523; Lucas Cranach the Elter, 1553; Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley. Protestant martyrs, burnt at the stake, 1555; Robert Fergusson, poet, 1774; John Hunter, surgeon and anatomist, 1793; Marie

Antoinette, Oueen of France, exc cuted 1743. On this day: Girton College, Cambridge, was opened (in Hitchin, Herts), 1869, Harold Wilson became Prime Minister, 1964. Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius of

Cluny, St Bercharius, St Bertrand of Comminges, St Gall, St Gerard Ma-jella, St Hedwig, St Lull, St Margaret-Mary, Saints Marunian and Maxima and St Mommolimus. Lectures National Gallery: James Heard, "Peter Blake (iii), Born in the USA." Pop Art in England and America", Ipm Luncheons Ministry of Defence Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, was host at a luncheon held yester-

day by the Ministry of Defence, in Admiralty House, Whitehall, London SW1. in bonour of General Joseph W. Ralston, Vice-Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, United States

Dinners Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Malcolm Rifkind OC MP Seretary of State for Foreign and Comrwealth Affa<u>irs,</u> held a **dinne**r vestorday at 1 Carlton Gardens London SWI, in honour of Mr Mircea Snegur, President of the Renublic of Moravia.

Mr Edward Nugee QC and Masters of the Bench of Inner Temple yes terday entertained the President of the Law Society. Mr Tony Girling, its Vice-President, Mr Philip Sycamore, and Council to dimer in the Inner

from the respondent authori-

ties under section 21(1)(a).

The authorities denied that

the applicants were in need of

care and attention. They were

simply in need of money, it was

said, and so did not come with-

in the ambit of the subsection.

The words "any other circumstances" were limited, by ref-

erence to the ejustiem generis

rule, to circumstances relating

to the physical condition of the

individual seeking assistance.

David Familick QC and Stephen

Fulham London Borough Conneil, ex parte M; R v Lambeth LBC, ex parte P and ex parte X: R v

accommodation.

Assistance Act 1948 (as amended by the Ministry of Social Security Act 1966, the Local Government Act 1972, the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990) provided:

JP1100120

Knafter (Clore & Co) for the applicants; Michael Beloff QC with Nigel Giffin (C.T. Mahoney, Hammersmids, and J. Cuiran, Lambeth) and with Clive Jones (C. Wilson, Westminster) for the authorities; Nigel Pleming QC and Steven Kovats EAR SLD: EAR

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Property wizard seeks backers for a Russian flutter



Betting on Russia: Chelsfleid

Bermuda-registered, AIM-listed, backed by property indus-try luminary Elliott Bernerd and planning to set up an on-line lottery in 10 Russian cities. the stock market's latest flotation candidate yesterday se-cured its place at the top of a list of ambitious and unusual issues. Alea, named after the Latin word for a game of chance, is hoping for first dealings on the Alternative Investment Market at the beginning

investors into the Russian na-tional lottery, a joint venture be-tween Alea (60 per cent) and its Russian partner, the Russian Committee for the Protection of Peace (40 per cent). Raising £32.4m in new money, the company has plans for lotteries around the emerging world, in-cluding the former Soviet Union, South America and Africa.

The company is the latest venture from Elliott Bernerd, chairman of Chelsfield Britain's ninth largest quoted property company, but a serious investor on his own account in

Russia, which is seen by many as the dangerous but potentially lucrative Wild West of the capitalist world. Other well-known entrepreneurs taking a bet on the region include George Walker, who is currently introducing Russians to the attractions of horse racing.

Through a private company, Halstead Services, Mr Bernerd has invested in recent years in a string of forestry, oil, money market trading and gold businesses in the former Soviet Union and last year he appointed the former Lonrho main board director and Union

Terry Robinson to run his embryonic Russian empire

According to Mr Robinson. there is enormous untapped demand for a Camelot-style lottery in Russia. Recent research showed that 64 per cent of Russians are aware of lotteries, many more than for any other wagering activity. Some 53 per cent like a flutter, a little under half have already gambled on Russia's off-line lotteries, such as scratchcards, and 70 per cent say the chance of winn the equivalent of \$1m would tempt them to have a go.

finance director at Union, Paul Taylor, being with them their experience of dealing in emerging markets such as Africa and Russia. For that, Halstead will retain a 30 per cent stake in Alea following the proposed share placing. Essnet, which operates lotteries in Australia. the Netherlands, Germany and Latvia provides the operational know-how and takes a 20 per

cent stake in the company. New investors, who will subscribe to a package of loan notes and equity, will hold 50 per cent of the shares in return for pro-

viding all the £32.4m that will fund the new venture. There are 300,000 units on offer at £108, each of which comprises one \$100 loan note and 133 shares worth an initial 33p.

The complex funding structure is designed to maximise the return to equity shareholders, with the loan note element of the package paid off as quick-ly as possible (the target is 18 months).

At the placing price, Alea will be valued at £26.3m and the loan notes and shares will trade separately on AIM.

untapped demand



United wins battle for Blenheim with £592m agreed bid

PATRICK TOOHER

The five month "phoney war" for control of Blenheim appeared to be over yesterday after United News & Media, the money broking-to-newspapers group run by Labour peer Lord Hollick, made an agreed £592.3m bid for the exhibitions organiser.

the £3bn merger earlier this year between of Lord Hollick's MAI group and Lord Stevens' Unit- £26.7m; French utility Gened Newspapers, will form the erale des Eaux with 15 per world's largest trade fair group with pro forma sales last year of £545m and operating profits of

"This merger creates a world leader in a fast-growing busi-ness-to-business sector," said

Miller Freeman [United's existing exhibitions arm] and Blenheim is remarkably good. The combination will create an exciting range of opportunities for future growth.

United said its 500p a share offer had irrevocable acceptances from investors speaking for 56.5 per cent of Blenheim. The deal coming soon after These included Blenheim's about the future of Blenheim chairman, Neville Buch, whose near 6 per cent stake is worth cent; and the American Ianuzzi family with 12 per cent.

The deal increases United's borrowings to £625m, but the in-

terest bill is comfortably covered over seven times by earnings.
In the City, analysts said Lord Hollick. "The fit between United appeared to have won

Diary of the battle for Blenheim

28 May 1996 - Hefty deellags in Blenheim Steres. Some 4.5m shares, or

5 June – Blenheim tells Stock Charlenge it has received an approach from an unnamed bidder. United News & Media said to be in talks. Sources close to Newille Buch, Blenheim's presmitti, indicate offers won't be considered below 500p. States state.

31 July - Reed Elsevier reportedly enters the fray, hiring Deutsche Morgan Grenfell as edvenss

1 Aug – United reportedly suspends takeover talks with Blenheim; Blenheim tells Stock Exchange it is talks that could lead to takeover

30 Aug - Takeover talks terminated with unnamed party, Blenheim tells

1.6 Sep - Blenheim announces it is back in takeover talks; Reed-Elsewer believed to have made a renewed approach; shares soar

8 Oct - VNU picks up 14.99 per cent stake in Blenheim at 500p during

15 Oct - United News & Media agrees £592.5m bid for Blenheim at 500p a share with acceptances for 51 per cent of the shares. VNU says it will

2 Oct ~ Blenheim posts more than doubled interim pre-tax profits of £30.7m, up from £13.1m. Keeps silent on progress of bid talks

7 June - United reportedly tables an offer of up to 450p

the fight for Blenheim at a very good price while United's assurances that the takeover will be earnings enhancing in its first year sent its shares sharply higher. They closed 40p better at 693.5p while Blenheim was 23p firmer at 496.5p. The agreed offer should put

to an end months of speculation

since its announcement in June that it was in talks that might lead to a bid. Neither United nor Reed-Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch pub-

lisher also involved in protracted bid talks with Blenheim, ever publicly acknowledged their interest. Reed is thought to have

balked at paying over 480p a share for Blenheim after Mr Buch held out for at least 20p a share more. Mr Buch yesterday indicated that other parties had also expressed an interest in Blenheim but he declined to say who they were. Lord Hollick said Blenheim

was considered to be a takeover candidate "shortly after" the £3bn merger of MAI and United Newspapers earlier this year. United later built up a 2 per cent stake in Blenheim just before initial talks between the two sides began in early June until a bid, ieved to be 450p a share, was rejected by Blenheim.

Lord Hollick defended his handling of the bid process. "We steadfastly maintained a position of no comment throughout. We are a cautious and slow oak. We wanted to see Blenheim's interims [published on 2 October]."

He added that United was keen to avoid a contested bid. He also denied the timing of the deal had anything to do with VNU's dawn raid on Blenheim last week when the Dutch publishing group picked up a 14.99 per cent stake at 500p. VNU said yesterday it had no intention of launching a counter-bid.



Model performance: David Memory (1979), Tie Rack's finance director and the chairman Roy Bishlip. Investment, page 22 Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Early price review should cut water bills

MICHAEL HARRISON

Water bills are set to begin falling from the end of the century after the industry regulator, Ian Byatt of Ofwat, confirmed that he is to review price controls earlier than planned.

The announcement yesterday sent the share prices of the water companies into reverse although some industry representatives welcomed the move as a means of obtaining regulatory clarity.

The current price controls, which limit increases to the retail price index plus 1 per cent were introduced in 1995 and

were due to run for 10 years. penditure programme the in- they would have been frozen. portunity for the industry But Mr Byatt amounced yesterday that he had decided to review the price limits for all 29 water and sewerage companies in 1999. "The water companies are now reporting substantial efficiency savings. We will take full

passed on to customers," he said. "Customers have seen prices rising for too long."

The average water bill has risen from £118 in 1989, the year of privatisation, to £218 now an increase of 85 per cent. The

huge increase has been justified

on the grounds of the £30bn ex-

account of these at the next re-

view in order that they can be

dustry is undertaking to improve water standards and clean up rivers and beaches.

however, been getting progressively slower. In the first five years after privatisation water charges rose by 68 per cent and sewerage charges by 65 per cent. Since 1994 they have risen by 8.3 per cent and 13.1 per cent respectively, said Ofwat.

Prices had only been due to rise by an average of 0.4 per cent between 2000 and 2005 under the existing price review and in some areas such as Yorkshire, Severn Trent and North West,

It is now almost certain that prices will start to come down in real terms. "We would not be reviewing the controls early if we expected to keep them as ment Agency and Ofwat itself they are at present," said an Ofwat spokeswoman.

The water companies' liences allow for a review to take place half way through the current price control and it has been widely assumed in the industry that Mr Byatt would take advantage of this.

Pamela Taylor, chief executive of the Water Companies Association, said the announcement represented an important op-

adding that it had not come as any surprise. "This review will enable all parties - companies, the Government, the Environ-- to create a much needed stable framework within which companies can best serve our customers' needs.

The extent to which the water companies are achieving savings beyond those assumed by the regulator when he set price controls will become appropriet later this month when Mr Byatt publishes his annual report of capital expenditure by

Shares break another record as sterling rises

Strong earnings bolster Wall Street

overvalued compared with over the same quarter last year.

Bond Yields

DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor**

Shares in London ended at another record high yesterday, while the pound surged more than two pfennigs to reach its highest level against the German mark since the end of 1994. The FTSE 100 index ended

more than 12 points higher at 4.050.8. It was propelled by an early surge in shares on Wall Street, later reversed by profittaking. The Dow Jones index was almost 5 points up at 6,014.85 by mid-morning.

Although economic figures

due out on both sides of the Atlantic this week and next meant trading was light and cautious, many analysts were very optimistic about the combination of solid growth and low inflation

in the US and UK. "Everything looks like economic Nirvana." said Joseph La Vorgna, an economist at the Wall Street investment bank Lehman Brothers.

Figures out today are expected to show a further decline in the number of people claiming un-

Offering fresh fodder to the

Wall Street bull, a parade of

American corporations, from

General Motors to Kodak, re-

leased third-quarter earnings re-

sults yesterday that were far in

excess of analysts' forecasts.
The slew of higher-than-

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DAVID USBORNE

STOCK MARKETS

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employment benefit and a small improvement in government borrowing last month in the UK. US figures for inflation today and industrial output tomorrow are also likely to encourage the view that things could not be

expected earnings came on the

heel of Wall Street's record-

setting day on Monday, when

the Dow Jones Industrial Av-

erage settled over the 6,000

mark for the first time in its 100-

year history. They will do little

to bolster warnings from the

minority of bearish analysts

that the New York markets are

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Both currencies strengthened. with the pound rising to close at DM2.4378. Its index against a range of currencies was up 0.6 at 88.6. The dollar was slightly higher against the yen and up more than a pfennig against the mark at DM1.5292 by midday.

company earnings. In a partial reversal of Monday's markets

gains, however, the Dow slipped

back somewhat in early trading

Third-quarter profits at Gen-

eral Motors, the largest of the

Big Three car makers, came out

at \$1.27bn (£802m), or \$1.57 a

share, double the level achieved

Long Semi (Si) For Ap

19.5 5.7

yesterday after profit taking.

"There is a lot of speculative interest in the pound stem-ming from the view that it has lagged behind the other peripheral currencies in Europe," said Paul Meggyesi, an analyst at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

maker of film and photograph-

ic paper, unveiled à 21 per cent

Manhattan agreed: "It is one of the few currencies in Europe with any scope to move," he said. He predicted sterling will climb to DM2.50, although warned that it will struggle to stay there

the Continent gets under way. The financial markets still expect the next move in interest rates to be upwards, whereas they see rates on the Continent remaining unchanged against the background of tough fiscal Monday a doubling of its third quarter profits. Ford results are policies, high unemployment and weak growth. due today. Kodak, the world's largest

when the economic recovery on

The surge in the oil price to a post-Gulf War high has also helped sterling, still just about considered a petro-currency. The

price of the benchmark Brent crude future touched \$25 a barrel esterday after new reports that

jump in its third-quarter earnings. Net income rose to \$410m, or \$1.22 a share, from \$338m, or 99 cents a share, in the 1995 quarter. Iraqi tanks were on the move.

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Barclays merges fund managers

PETER RODGERS Financial Editor

Barclays said yesterday it is to integrate its £230bn worldwide fund management business in one new organisation run from San Francisco, making it one of the largest firms of its kind in the world.

As part of the strategy, Bar-

clays' London fund management business is to phase out contacts with executives of the companies it invests in, and rely instead on new techniques of computerised analysis to make investment decisions on the £60bn it has under management from the City.

This policy of relying on number crunching will bring it into line with the San Francisco operation, based on Wells Fargo Nikko Investments, the indexed fund manager Bar-clays acquired last December

Lindsay Tombinson, who is to be joint chief executive of Berdays Global Investors, the new group, said BZW was scaling back meetings with managements because investment decisions based on hard data were more reliable. Mr Tomlinson said it was

much harder to spot the duffers among directors than 10 years ago because company manage-ments were "either very pro-fessional or very plausible."

He added: "We don't want

magers of companies coming round and just smooching us. It's a waste of time for everybody." He said PDFM already took the same view.

However, BZW will continue to use its vote on all the shares it owns and would meet managements where contentious corporate governance issues were involved. What the company did not want was the public relations offensive of managements being trundled round by brokers.'

As part of the change of style in London 11 active fund anagers, two of them directors of the operation, are to quit. Mr Tomlinson is to be job chief executive in London and

Patricia Dunn will have the same role in San Francisco. The chairman of Barclays global investors will be Fred Grauer, also from the San Francisco end. BGI is part of Barclays Asset Management, chaired by John Varley, who reports direct to Martin Taylor, Barclays chief ex-

ecutive, rather than to the group's investment bank, BZW. Barclays is to continue offering active fund management as well as the indexed business. where the San Francisco com-

pany is the world's largest. However, with the new techniques the difference between active and indexed fund management had become paper thin, Mr Tomlinson said.

The new advanced tech-niques of active fund manage ment used data on mag-sentiment – such as analy forecasts and trading patterns of other investors - as well as traditional balance sheet and cash flow valuation techniques.

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Footsie rise

The sort of freedom Peter Young was given at Morgan Grenfell to back his hunches is becoming the exception. From that

point of view, clients can breath a sigh of belief. Out go the mavericks, in come the grey, besuited **Drofessionals**

Why talking to management is a waste of time So there you are. BZW, or rather its invest-ment management side, thinks going out and seeing companies a waste of time. Get-

ting to know a company, its strategy and management no longer matters, its top brass seem to have decided. Instead, number crunching and modelling is all. The new approach involves the old heave he for 11 of BZW's more traditional fund managers. These are the ones that presumably hold to the old judgmental approach to spotting a good investment, and like to be wined and dined by our leading companies. In their place come the new technocrats, who invest according to a strict company model built around sentiment and valuation criteria, with a little bit of what directors are up to in their own share dealings added in for fun.

The biggest part of BZW's asset management business these days is already in indexed funds, which require no active management at all. But even on the "active" side, BZW plans to confine investment strategy within tightly set parameters from here on in. This is very much the modern approach. The sort of freedom Peter Young was given at Morgan Grenfell to back his hunches is becoming the exception, even in quite specialised funds. From that point of view, clients can breath a sigh of belief. Out go the mavericks, in come the grey, besuited,

Presumably this is what the clients want; certainly it is easy to see why BZW thinks see-

into believing this the best investment prospect since Microsoft. At the same time, you have to wonder whether these new methods are really any better than the old judgmental approach. Consistency and professionalism do not seem to have worked particularly well for PDFM over the past 18 months.

There are other dangers as well. The recent trend has been for institutional shareholders to become more involved and active in the affairs of the companies they own. The "meeting companies is a waste of time" approach runs in the opposite direction. Without that interface, managements are going to find it harder to understand the demands of their leading shareholders. Ownership and management will become even more divorced than it is at present, with unpredictable and possibly quite adverse

The importance of timing for water firms

With the impeccable timing that has become its hallmark, Yorkshire Water chose yesterday to announce an end finally to water restrictions on its long-suffering customers just as Ian Byatt at Ofwat was

ulator are rowing roughly in the same direction at last.

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For once, Yorkshire is actually ahead of the wave. Because of its little spot of bother, its prices were already due for review in 1999, not 2005 when the current price controls run out. Moreover, it is one of the small hand of water companies that has already voluntarily offered customers money back from efficiency gains, before being pushed

in at the deep end by Mr Byatt. The fact that the remaining 28 water and ewerage companies are also to have their price controls reviewed five years early will provoke predictable howls that another watchdog has torn up its regulatory contract with shareholders.

In fact, it was universally assumed that Mr Byatt would exploit the clause that allows him to revisit the price controls early. The civil servants around at the Department of the Environment inadvertently let the cat out of the bag anyway when they renewed his contract in June. The more interesting questions are whether he is justified in his intentions and why he has chosen to announce them three years u. dvau. :.

The answer to the first depends upon where you sit. There is no doubt that the reulatory climate is becoming more uncomfortable for investors in these companies. So unveiling plans to bring them lower bills much so that Severn Trent and Wessex may

paying.
On the other hand, shareholders can hardly complain. These companies have proved fabulous investments; the return is still way ahead of what it should be for bog standard, monopoly utilities. Furthermore it would be an odd regulator who let price controls run for 10 years and ignored the evidence of how much more efficient the companies under his charge were becoming. Only six out of 28 have attempted to manage the regulatory risk by volunteering

price reductions. The answer to the second - why announce it now - has to do with a much shorter timeframe. There are only six months left until John Major has to call an election. Ian Byatt wants to remain around if Tony Blair

RBS's independence may hinge on Direct Line

here is no better comment on Peter There is no better comment on Peter Wood's brilliant entrepreneurial judgeused than the manner and timing of his decision to end his profit sharing arrange-ment with Royal Bank of Scotland.

in 1994, the bank agreed to pay him the best part of £40m over a two year period as a bonus and buyout premium for his contract with Direct Line, its immensely successful

brightest young manager out on a day trip to company that labours under the soubriquet them bid for South West is not worth vanishing point and with hindsight Mr. Wood has performed the rare feat of getting out at the top of the market.

The generosity of Mr Wood's profit sharing arrangement, and the reason it cost so much to get rid of the contract, was a result of Royal's decision some time earlier to buy out his direct equity stake in the business.

As Royal never tired of pointing out at the time - to deflect criticism of the board for employing the fattest cat in the UK - he would have been quite a lot richer still if he had kept his original equity.

Nobody, including Mr Wood, could easly have foreseen at the time quite how cutthroat the motor insurance business would become and how many direct sellers would enter the market. It was even harder to envisage the soaring court awards made recently for personal injury damages.
In recent judgements the courts have been

assessing claims on the basis of standardised tables that project the loss of future earnings that might be sustained through injury. The bill for insurers is, as a consequence, far higher than it used to be, and this applies to all the claims in the pipeline.

By setting up Direct Line in the first place.

Mr Wood may well have saved the bank's reputation, and perhaps its independence. With Direct Line now looking jaded, the questions will be asked afresh about whether Royal has an independent future.

Grim forecast on Direct Line profits hits RBS shares

JILL TREANOR Banking Correspondent

Royal Bank of Scotland's shares were knocked yesterday as Hugh Pye, the top-rated analyst at BZW, sharply cut his forecasts for the company's Direct Line in-surance subsidiary due to susined pricing pressure on miums and a big increase in rsonal liability claims.

BZW yesterday recommended its clients to sell RBS shares, a constituent of the FTSE 100 index, after slashing its the cast £50m to £16m for the 1995/96

year. Shares in RBS, which have been buoyed recently by takeover speculation, dropped 13p to 522.5p, a sharp contrast istered further rises to take the FTSE 100 index to an all-time high of 4,058.8.

Looking further ahead, BZW has cut its forecast for Direct Line, which landed its founder, Peter Wood, a £24m payout a charged for motor insurance, couple of years ago, for 1996/97 which accounts for around 75 per from £75m to £25m and for cent of its business, during the

1997/98 from £100m to £33m. Overall, BZW said Direct

Line would hit RBS's profits and it cut its forecast for the bank to £675m of profit for its latest financial year, which ended last month. While that is lower than its earlier forecast of £709m it is still an increase on the £602m that RBS made in 1995. "Direct Line is suffering from

a sharp increase in personal liability claims and the lack of any easing in premium price com-petition," Mr Pye said. "Tinceitainty in Direct Line's

reserving requirements is likely to deter potential agressors. Further rumours will probably trigger the approach denials that put paid to last year's speculation," he added.

comment yesterday as it is in the "closed period" ahead of its results.

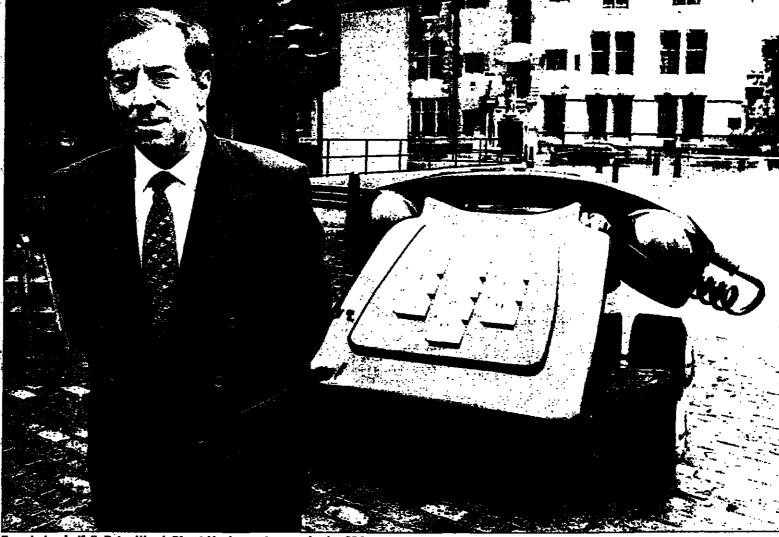
But at the halfway stage Direct Line said it expected an improvement in the premiums it charged for motor insurance, which accounts for around 75 per for in current premium rates,"

second half of the year. Analysts. though, are cutting their forecasts because competition in the market has remained fierce and the sharp increases in preminins necessary to build up profits are not emerging.

"Insurers are putting premiums up but it's pretty modest at 3 to 5 per cent against claims which are rising [at a similar rate] which is allowing no great improvement in profits," said Trevor May, insurance analyst at Salomon, the US investment

Also adding to insurers' wees, especially those in the motor industry, are a sharp increase in personal-hability claims through the courts, which are granting higher awards because they have awards through Ogden Tables. These Tables standardise the

claims awarded by projecting future earnings potential of the in-jured party. "The resulting rewards are significantly higher than hitherto, and not allowed



Founder's windfall: Peter Wood, Direct Line's creator, received a £24m payout

New offence could close mortgage fraud loophole

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The creation of a new offence of obtaining a money transfer by deception was proposed by the Law Commission yesterday in an effort to block a loophole that allows mortgage fraudsters to escape prosecution.

The proposals in the report Offences of Dishonesty: Moncy Transfers" are a response to the House of Lords decision in the Preddy case earlier this cause the flatness of the housthe Preddy case earlier this year. That held that the alleged mortgage fraudsters had not

cause they had not gained "property belonging to another".

The effect of allowing the Preddy appeal is that is has be- selves at the mercy of dishoncome "very difficult to prosecute mortgage fraudsters or anybody who obtains money dishonestly by any means other than cash payment, says the Law Commission.

Mortgage fraud has not been ing market meant that building societies and banks were not

ey. However, it was previously an important issue for lenders who frequently found themest borrowers, often acting in concert with corrupt valuers and

At its simplest, mortgage fraud involves an individual seeking a loan to buy a house and then using the money obtained for a completely different purpose. But many people developed far more sophisticated scams, some of which in-

breached the 1968 Theft Act be-competing fiercely to lend mon-volved several transactions taking place on the same day. A spokeswoman for the Council of Mortgage Lenders gave a cautious welcome to the proposals, which could take many months to become law. "It looks very helpful and very welcome in tackling these prob-

> change should be retrospective. The Law Commission said it had rejected this on the grounds that it would not be feasible. A spokesman for the Halifax.

> lems," she said. However, she

added that she felt the law

Britain's largest mortgage lender, said he supported the plans for a change in principle. but his organisation had suggested a much simpler change -amending the Theft Act to cov-

er credit as well as property. In its report, the Law Commission also seeks to combat problems stemming from the Preddy ruling that a credit balance resulting from one indi-vidual using deception to obtain a transfer of funds from another person's account to his own probably does not come within the definition of stolen goods. It therefore recommends that there should be a new offence of retaining credits from dishonest sources. A credit would be regarded as wrongful if it de-

rived from such means as theft,

blackmail, stolen goods or the

In Brief

new offence of obtaining a transfer by deception.

Now that the housing market is recovering in most parts of the without a change in legisla tion, mortgage fraud could rise

 CSX Corporation, a transport group, has agreed to buy Con-ail, the US rail operator, for \$8.4bn (£5.3bn), which will make CSX the world's largest freight, transportation and logistics provider. Under the merger, set to be completed in late 1947, CSX said it will pay \$92.50 in a combination of cash and stock for each share of Conrail's common stock. After the deal, CSX will have proected annual revenues of more than \$14bn and offer domestic and international rail, container-shipping, barge, and contract logistics services. The purchase of Contail will expand CSX's rail service in the US east of the Mississippi River, including a 29.645mile system covering a territory from Chicago, Boston and New York to Miami and New Orleans.

 Rupert Murdoch is planning to spin off a subsidiary of News Corporation, News Digital Systems, and sell 20 per cent of it publicly. The chairman and chief executive of News Corp told the company's annual meeting yesterday that it also expects to launch its American Sky Broadcasting satellite service by this time next

year. News Digital Systems, which News Corp bought six months

ago, is based in the UK and comprises News Datacom and Digi-

Media Vision. "We will be floating that company in the next two

or three weeks as a separate company and selling about 20 per

cent of it in order to make it more independent and to reassure

our competitors and third parties with whom we do business," said Mr Murdoch. It will be called Digital Media Services and

News Corp said it will probably be listed on the London Stock Exchange. News Digital Systems designs and develops end-to-

end video and data broadcasting systems, including compression,

Murdoch's sporting strategy, page 28

encryption and conditional access technologies.

 Amolink Concessionaires A19, a company formed by Amey. Taylor Woodrow Construction and Sir Robert McAlpine, has been awarded a design, build, finance and operate contract for the A19/A168 Dishforth to Tyne Tunnel. The company said the operation, maintenance and capital expenditure on the network was expected to be in the order of £330m cash over the period of the concession. Autolink said the 30-year contract was for the operation and maintenance of some 120 kilometres of the A168, A19 and the A174 covering the major trunk routes from the A1 at Dishforth to the Tyne Tunnel. The company said the initial construction of capital works included the building of the Norton to Parkway improvement scheme, which is valued at some £50m.

Boots plans to open up to five Boots The Chemists stores in the Irish Republic at a cost of £7.6m. The first store will open early November 1996 in the new Jervis Shopping Centre, Dublin. This store will cost £3.6m and will create 150 jobs. In spring 1997. Boots will open stores in Tallaght and Dun Laoghaire costing £0.75m and creating over 60 jobs. Boots said it was currently in negotiations for properties in Blanchardstown and the Quarryvale development. If these negotiations prove successful, a further 190 jobs could be created with an investment of £3.25m, it said. Boots The Chemists bas 25 stores in Northern Ireland, where there are also seven Boots Opticians practices.

that the UK must keep its options open on European monetary union, regardless of whether the government decided to join. Speaking at the Lombard Association Dinner in the City of London Mr Turner warned that whatever Britain decided, other European nations looked like they were going to go ahead with EMU in 1999. The UK should plan accordingly, he said. Mr Turner called for a detailed debate of the economic issues. He said membership could reduce economic volatility and business uncertainty but could also make labour markets less flexible.

Adair Turner, the director-general of the CBL said yesterday

Gehe sells drug manufacturing operations

NIGEL COPE

Gehe, the German drugs group locked in a two-way fight for Lloyds Chemists, yesterday announced plans to sell its remaining drugs manufacturing operations to concentrate on expanding further in drugs wholesaling.

The company said the sale was not related its battle with UniChem for Lloyds Chemists, which is currently being scruti-nised by the UK competition authorities. The bid battle is expected to resume next week.

Gehe said it will gain around £500m from the sale of the four manufacturing divisions as well as the majority stake in a fifth whose patent protection has lapsed. The company said it did not feel its manufacturing operations were large enough to compete in the rapidly consol-idating pharmaceuticals market. It also said that the sales would help allay any fears over

a conflict of interest with its

free-up cash for another Lloyds Chemists bid, the company denied that this was the reason for

the sale. The largest manufacturing division is being sold to Sandoz, the Swiss pharmaceuticals company, for DM640 (£280m). Gene's French unit GNRpharma, is being bought by BASE, the German chemicals giant. Gehe declined to name the buyers or prices of the two other divisions as the deals have not yet been completed. Earlier this summer, Gehe sold a 75 per cent stake in an east German manufacturer for

DM500 (£217m). Gehe's move takes it closer to its goal of ranking among the top global companies in each of top grown companies in each of its core areas; renting health equipment, shipping pharma-ceuticals and selling them

Our problem was we were too small in the production area to keep pace with the world's big players, so it makes sense to divest the division and wholesaling and retailing divi-sion. Though the disposals will concentrate on the other areas,"



Bid battle continues: Allen Lloyd of Lloyds Chemists

said Gehe's chief financial officer, Karl-Gerhard Eick. Gene and UniChem have been locked in a 10-month bid-

nopoly authorities scrutinise how well each group has complied with certain requirements. Mr Eick said Gene had met its requirements and awaited an Mr Eick said.

answer from the Office of Fair Trading. Gehc and UniChem are required to submit to the OFT by this Friday details of ding war for Lloyds, which has how they plan to dispose of sev-currently been stalled as UK mo-eral wholesaling warehouses. These plans will then be submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry. "We are still interested in Lloyds Chemists,

Paper price rise threat to printers

PATRICK TOOHER

Soaring carbonless paper prices are threatening to put many smaller printers out of business, it was claimed yesterday.

Kalamazoo, a leading manufacturer of printed business forms, hit out at "outrageous" price increases of 30 per cent in the last month for the paper grade used for invoices and order forms.

"There can be absolutely no justification for the way that paper mills and merchants have been behaving," said Alan Bateman, manufacturing director at Kalamazoo's security printing division.

"During the last four weeks we have been notified of two separate rises, 10 per cent four weeks ago, now 20 per cent. What makes these rises harder to stomach is that all the suppliers seem to act at once." Mr Bateman added that the industry had no alternative but to pass on these costs to

Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the biggest producer of carbonless paper in Europe, declined to comment on the claims, while nobody was available from the man said.

National Association of Paper Merchants, a trade body. Arjo Wiggins is at the centre

of price-fixing allegations in the US where its American subsidiary, Appleton, is defending charges that it conspired with competitors to fix the price of thermal fax paper in a period up to 1991.

Paper prices have been on a roller-coaster ride in recent years, recording their sharpest increase in two decades in 1995 only to halve to \$500 a tonne in the first six months of this

Volatile swings in the price of pulp - the basic raw material for oaper makers – were blamed. but since the recent introduction of a futures and options market in various grades of pulp, prices have become more

Kalamazoo claims that the abundance of pulp at the moment has only added to printers' frustration.

"Now that the market has revived and capacity has been reduced, prices have been hiked in an attempt to make up for profit lost in the first six months of the year," Mr Bate-

market report / shares

FTSE 100 4050.8 +12.1 FTSE 250 4448.9 +5.4 FTSE 350 2013.3 +5.2 SEAQ VOLUME: 804.8m shares, 44,567 bargains Gilts Index 94.79 +0.07

SHARE SPOTLIGHT BLACKS. LEISURE

Banks left in the shade as Footsie ends on new peak

The high street clearing banks Far East which could wipe the were pushed to one side as the stock market continued to gloss from Standard's growth. The stockbroker is thought to frolic in the hazy autumn

its gain in late trading, the of the bank's house brokers. Footsie blue chips index ended at another high, up 12.1 points

from Barclays de Zoete Wedd on Royal Bank of Scotland and Cazenove on Standard Chartered created the unease. Royal Bank fell 13p to 522.5p and Standard 18p to

BZW is worried about the increasing competition Royal Bank's Direct Line insurance arm is facing. It cut its profit forecasts for this year from £709m to £675m and next from £743m to £690m.

have expressed its fears at a series of meetings with insti-Although surrendering half tutional investors. Caz is one

Other banks were caught in the analytical flak. Bank of 4,050.8. Scotland fell 6p to 273p and Lloyds TSB 7p to 408p. Bara significant contribution to the clays, confirming rumours it is advance. Negative comments merging its investment man-

from Hanson, encountered sell advice from Crédit Lyon-

nais Laing.

Researchers Ian Rennard-son and Janet Lear declared: "The share price does not fully reflect the risks Imperial faces in its push to grow over-

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

comfort that a 20 per cent stake

could soon be on offer, elec-

tricities dimmed on Goldman

Sachs caution.
Oils were mixed despite fur-

ther crude strength. British Petroleum fell 11.5p to 684p in

response to an explosion at its

Ohio refinery. Enterprise Oils'

gusher came to an end with the shares down 11.5p to 567.5p or profit taking. Shell gained 11.5p to 1,040.5p. Bass, weak recently, rallied

15.5p to 779.5p on hopes its

The shares, up to 417p since prospect of earlier price curbs with Wessex, off 19.5p to 325p, suffering the additional disthe split, fell a further 2p to

Smith & Nephew slipped a further 4.75p to 206.75p as BZW's highly rated drugs analyst steve Plag turned seller agement arms, was one is ignore the gunfire, climbing 9.5p to 975.5p, a peak.
Analysts did not confine group was cursed by "lousy" markets. He said he viewed the "trepidation".

Burton, the retailer, held at 148.25p. Nick Bubb at stockbroker Mees Pierson believes the group still has much going for it and the shares remain a buy. He forecasts profits for the

Sports retailers Blacks
Leisure and JJB Sports raced
to new peaks with Blacks up
19p to 311.5p and JJB 13p to

335.5p. They were encouraged by the higher than expected flotation price accorded JD Sports. Laura Ashley, the furnishing group, scored a 10.5p gain to 202.5p with vagne takeover chatter mingling with hopes its recovery is gathering strength. Dalgety, the petfood group, came in for a round of late buying which lifted the shares off their low to 312p.

BSkyB kept up its progress with an 18p gain to 675.5p. A stock shortage - and Rupert Murdoch's upbeat statement kept the price on course for 700p. German buying is also likely to be an influence.

Blenheim rose 23p to 496.5p as United News & Media finally stirted into action. Its of-

any review of the tied house by shareholders representing system. by shareholders representing 56.5 per cent of the capital. United gained 40p to 693.5p. But another United – Man-chester – lost its takeover excitement, falling 26.5p to

532.5p.
VideoLogic added 2.5p to 53.5p with Merrill Lynch said 53.5p with Merrill Lynch said to be about to produce a buy recommendation and virtual reality group Superscape soared 162.5p to 565p following a deal with Microsoft.

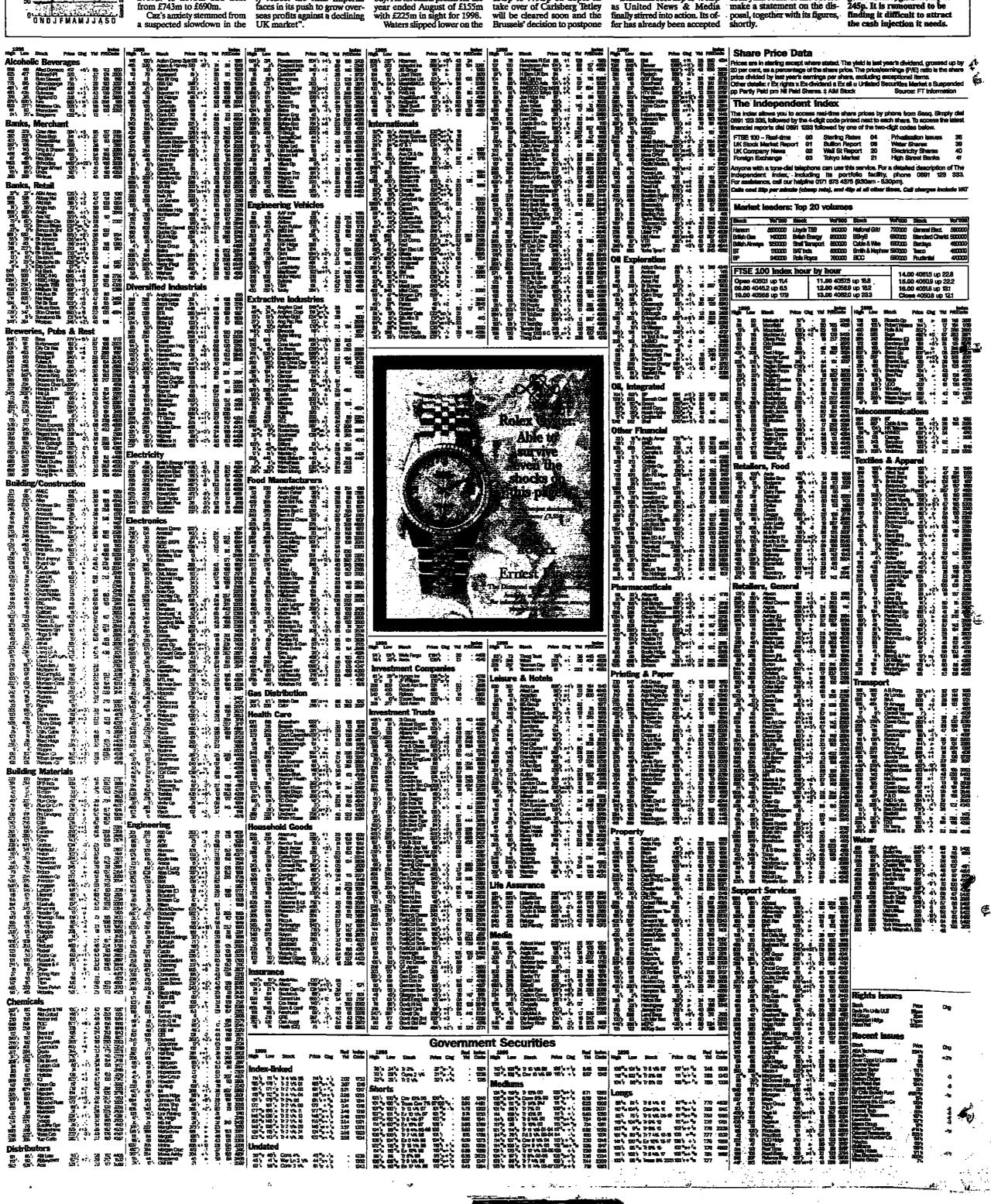
Wakebourne, the struggling computer group, fell 4.5p to 16p following a cautious statement and Creightons' Naturally, a fragrance and soap business, fell 2.5p to 67.5p on the latest boardroom change.

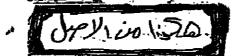
the latest boardroom change. Hollas, the textile group, firmed a shade to 4.75p after Monday's fall. The company said it was negotiating the sale of its yarn business and should make a statement on the dis-

It looks as though Hillsdown Holdings has sold its 12.3 per cent interest in Princedale, the plastic display and marketing services group. Sir Harry Solomon, a former chief of Hillsdown, is on the Princedale board. In heavy trading, with turnover put at 19.2 million, the shares gained 2p to 33p.

Spring Ram, the bathroom and kitchen group, enjoyed a rare advance. Chairman Roger Regan caused the stir by nearly doubling his share holding, buying 500,000 at 12p. After selling its door division Spring Ram is expected to return to the black next year although losses of £12.5m are likely this time.

gold venture, gained 9.5p to 245p. It is rumoured to be finding it difficult to attract





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Inchcape sells insurance arm to Aon for £160m

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Incheape, the international motor and distribution group, yesterday completed its restructuring programme by selling its Bain Hogg insurance broking business to Aon Corporation of the US for £160m.

The deal surprised the City, which had been expecting Bain Hogg to be demerged, but the reaction was nevertheless positive. The price being paid by Aon, which made an unsuccessful approach for Bain Hogg a year ago, is about £30m higher than the value analysts were placing on a demerged Bain Hogg.

In addition, Inchespe will avoid having to spend the £20m restructuring provision for Bain Hogg announced alongside its interim results last month. It also avoids having to make a net cash contribution of £13m to recapitalise the business.

Inchcape will incur a pre-tax exceptional loss on the sale of £195m, mainly through the writing back of goodwill. But this loss will be largely offset by the £180m exceptional profit the group will make from last week's £380m sale of its testing services division to a group led by Charterhouse Development

Capital.
Philip Cushing, Inchcape's chief executive, said: "The value gleaned for shareholders from this deal is considerably greater than had we gone down the demerger route.

The deal was brokered by the US investment bank Morgan Stanley, which has acted in the past for both Incheape and Aon, the world's second biggest insurance brokerage.

Patrick Ryan, chairman and chief executive of Aon, flew into London a fortnight ago and began working on the deal from a suite in the Savoy Hotel.



Philip Cushing: Deal with Aon was signed 4am yesterday

cane continued with preparations for a demerger even after the two sides had sat down to serious negotiations in the middle of last week.

working through the night on Tuesday to finalise the deal, Inchcape was having 36,000 copies of the listing particulars printed in case the sale to Aon fell through and it had to fall back on a demerger.

Bain Hogg was formed in April 1994 when Inchcape bought Hogg Group for £176m and merged it with its own Bain Clarkson division to form Britain's biggest insurance brokerage and the 11th largest in the world. Bain Hogg employs 4,000 people world-wide. Op-

There is about £6m of cash in the business, which Aon will inherit

The proceeds of the sale will be used to cut Inchcape's bor-Even as the two teams were rowings. The Bain Hogg and Testing Services sales will reduce gearing from 74 per cent to 5 per cent

Patrick Ryan, chairman and chief executive of Aon, said the acquisition of Bain Hogg would provide it with the platform to develop in Europe, the Far East, Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa.

The disposal programme leaves Inchcape with its main motor vehicles distribution business, principally for Toyota cars, the shipping services business and soft drinks, office equipment suite in the Savoy Hotel. erating profits last year were and consumer and industrial Meanwhile, nowever, titch £28.7m on turnover of £234.6m. products distribution arm.

JD Sports on track for growth

tor of the high street at the moment with replica football shirts and branded trainers selling like there's no

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tomorrow. The big branded sportswear companies such as Nike and Reebok are supporting the boom with huge advertising spends. Their everexpanding ranges of goods are helping companies like JD Sports grab share not just from sports shops but

other clothing retailers. The sector's growth has put a rocket under the share prices of retailers such as JJB Sports and Blacks Leisure, JJB shares have risen five fold since the company came to the market in November 1994. Blacks Leisure has done even better, rising by a factor of 10 in the same period.

All this has helped JD Sport's cause and the company's advisers have reflected this in the pricing. Priced at a 285p per share - the top end of expectations - the company is valued at £132.6m with a historic rating of almost 26 and a prospective p/e of 21. This is heady stuff.

But demand from institutions has been strong with talk of the issue being five or six times subscribed. The usual problem is that this is only a plac-ing so the public cannot get their hands on the shares until they start trading on 22 October.

There is talk of them rising to at least a 25 premium so private investors will find it even more expensive to get a slice of the action.

That is not to say it might not be worth it. ID Sports is a well-regarded company with a good track record. Founded with a single store in Bury in 1981 it now has 61 outlets. The float is raising £8.9m of new money which will help fund an expansion programme of 25 stores a year rising to total of around 200. JD has three formats with the core

JD Sports chain accounting for 54 of the total. The others are Athleisure, a more leisure oriented format, and JD, a smaller format of the main chain. A larger out-of-town concept is also under consideration.

The margins are healthy. The company has been growing rapidly over the last few years and last year made pre-tax profits of £6.7m on sales of £56m. Footwear accounts for 52 per cent of sales, replication thall shirts mat 2 per cent.

Mees Pierson is forecasting full-year profits of £9m this year and £12m next. This gives a rating of 21 this year falling

This is expensive but with the sector:

John David Sports could not have timed its stock market flotation any bet-

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

growing so fast the shares are certainly worth a look. The caveat is that this is a fashion-led business where treads wax and wane. Ride with it while it lasts but the real trick is knowing when to

Russian lottery a risky business

If Elliott Bernerd, the property developer, were not behind the proposed flotation of Alea, announced yesterday, it is hard to imagine many investors tak-ing a second glance. A riskier proposition it would be hard to imagine than this one - facing up to the Mafia on their home patch, Alea plans to launch an on-line lottery in 10 Russian cities via a Bermuda-registered. AIM-quoted

If that sounds like a recine for disaster, the fact that new investors are to stump up the total cost of the \$39m project, while Mr Bernerd's family retains a 30 per cent stake and operator Essnet keeps 20 per cent, does little to soothe nerves. If you are going to take risks, it usually makes sense to do it with

8.7

Total:395

7.4

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Share price pence

Five Year record

Pre-tax profes (Em)

Shop numbers

Dividends per share (pence) 1.75

other people's money and all Mr Bernerd stands to lose is his reputation. But therein lies the cushion. It is hard to imagine anyone less willing to risk his name on a speculative overseas venture when he has built up such a reputation in the UK property market through his quoted vehicle Chelsfield, owner of Wentworth golf course, the

Merry Hill shopping centre in Dudley (bought at a knock-down price) and a stake in the proposed redevelopment of a derelict site in White City. The prospects for a Russian lottery are certainly enticing. There are 150 million people in a country with a penchant for a flutter, where the quoted

average salary of \$2,000 a year vastly understates the true figure thanks to a thriving black economy. Almost half the Russians polled in a recent survey are already playing off-line lotteries (scratcheards and the like). The management, in the form of

former Lonrito and Vestey man Terry Robinson, knows the patch and has linked up with a strong Russian partner and one of the world's leading lottery operators to run the show. The funding structure, raising most of the cash in the form of debt, should leave plenty for equity holders once the bor-

1999 of 39.7p.
This will either make a fortune for its investors or lose their shirts for them. Alea is a Latin word for "a game of chance" - only the individual shareholder can know whether he is prepared to play that game. He should do so with his eyes open.

Tie Rack rolls out new format

Some of Tie Rack's ties may be a bit vivid but there is nothing flash about the management. Led by the irrepressible Roy Bishko and chief executive Nigel McGinley, Tie Rack is a cautiously run business with £12m in the bank and no need to resort to external finance. It is also one of the few retailers to have made a decent fist of international expansion. With its problems in the US behind it. Tie Rack now has almost 400 stores in 2n countries and its early protestations that it was no Sock Shop have been burne out by subsequent events.

Its business is so heavily weighted to the second half and Christmas that its interims only say a limited amount about the company's performance. Even so, it was a creditable performance with pre-tax profits up 23 per cent to £604,000 in the six months to August. Like-for-like sales were up anywhere between 0 and 5 per cent (the company declined to be more specific) with current trading similar.

Eight more Tie Racks have opened in the second half so far with a total of 15 new outlets planned for the rest of the period. Europe and the Far East are the main targets.

After a lengthy trial the company is now expanding its Rolling Luggage Company, which sells suiteases with extendable handles and wheels. Five have opened so far with two more by the year-end. Management says the concept is profitable though it has not released details. No other new formats are planned

Tie Rack designs over 90 per cent of its ties in-house and did well over the summer with its Euro 96 range. A new range of Star Trek ties are also selling well.

NatWest is forecasting full-year profits of £8.7m. With the shares 3.5p higher at 180p yesterday, they trade on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 17, a slight discount to the sector. The shares have enjoyed a good run but are worth holding.

Dresdner choses London as centre for Eurobond dealings

PETER RODGERS Financial Editor

In a new coup for London in the battle for financial supremacy with Frankfurt, Dresdner Bank said yesterday it is to centralise all its Eurobond dealings at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson in the City.

This follows the announcement of plans to acquire Luthy Baillie Dowsett Pethick, a London-based research advice and broking boutique which employs 18 people.
The firm, led by Peter Luthy

and Jan Pethick, will be integrated with the Kleinwort fixed income business and will take world-wide responsibility for trading and issuing Eurobonds in the Dresdner group.

Gerhard Abel and Klaus Dresdner's Eurobond trading,

Frankfurt that Dresdner also plans to shift its foreign exchange business to London, but this has not been confirmed.

agement committee of Kleinwort's global markets division. Responsibility for domestic issues and government bonds will remain in Frankfurt.

physical movement of business from Frankfurt."

will report to London from Frankfurt. There have been rumours in

Mr Luthy will join the man-

Leonhard Fischer, joint head of Dresdner's Global Markets Division, said: "There will be no

The takeovers of Kleinwort by Dresdner and Morgan Grenfell by Deutsche Bank have upset Frankfurt's financial es-

Roehricht, the current heads of tablishment. Both bave made French franc products and dear that London is their main investment banking centre.

Other moves by German banks include the acquisition by Westdentsche Landesbank Girozentrale earlier this year of Panmure Gordon, the British stockbroker. Mr Fischer, who shares re-

sponsibility for Dresdner's global bond business, said the new acquisition was a perfect complement for Kleinwort Benson's international strategy. Dresdner planned in partic-

ular to expand its business with corporate clients and banks and was most interested in LBDP's existing contacts and its credit-spread business. Initially, Dresdner will focus

on German mark eurobonds and sterling, moving on to

non-European currencies afterwards.

This is a perfectly logical fillin for Dresdner's investment banking business," said John Leonard, an analyst at Salomon Brothers. London was a logical choice as a focus for Eurobonds, because it had a more vibrant market

Mr Luthy previously worked with Hans-Georg Hoffman, a Dresdner board member, at Lehman Brothers, and some dealers said the move may have been tied to their working relationship. "Kleinwort is a very conser-

vative player in the market so Luthy Bailly will take them into areas they have not got the expertise to cover," a Euroboud analyst said.

Regent plans early Hambros onslaught

Regent Pacific, the Hong Kong GRE is, however a close ally of investment group, is to meet Hambros shareholders next week to lobby for its plans to break up the London investment bank, writes Peter Rodgers.

Jim Mellon, managing director of Regent, yesterday confirmed the start of the onslaught on Hambros, which was outlined

last month.

He said: "We're going through
all the numbers and working out
more formally the proposals we roughly outlined before about distributing what we perceive as non-core assets. We'll then go round and see some of the principal shareholders and discuss

with them what their views are." He declined to say which shareholders the company had con-tacted, but the largest holders are Norwich Union, Guardian Royal Exchange and Banco Sao Paolo.

Hambros and shares a chairman in the person of Lord Hambro, while Sao Paolo has a longstand-ing shareholding alliance and is thought to be supportive.

Mr Mellon, whose company

holds three per cent of Hambros. said that other shareholders his firm had contacted had responded positively.

Regent said last month that Hambros should return capital to shareholders by selling affil-iate companies, with the 51 per cent stake in Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency and financial services group, at the top of its disposal list.

Mr Mellon said that with a

firm property market in the UK it was a good time to sell this business, and building societies in the UK would be the obvious

1991 92 93 94 95 96

 Superscape, the virtual reality group, saw its share price rocket by 162.5p to 565p following news of a deal with Microsoft. The deal involves the immediate use of Superscapes' Web software in all of Microsoft's retail versions of its Internet Explorer Starter Kit. Microsoft will distribute the software to all new Windows 95 users. Superscape also reported an increase in half-year losses from £1.75m to £2.87m, and said full-year losses would be "consistent with plans to grow aggressively."

• Dealers expect shares in the Fitness First healthclub group to record a premium of at least 10p on the 80p flotation price when dealings on the Alternative Investment Market begin today. Fitness, founded in 1992, was valued at £22m by the private placing, which raised £8m.

 Avesco has acquired 49 per cent of Complete Communications, the TV production and post-production company for £713,350. The stake has been acquired by buying Blindlink, which holds three share stakes in Complete for three venture capitalists. Complete, without detailing figures, said it had returned to the black in the first nine months of this year after losing money in the whole

 Shares in Wakebourne, the information technology services group, fell 4.5p to a five-year low of 16p after warning second-half results would fall well below expectations. Maintenance activities are being hit by aggressive price discounting by rivals. The CAD software divisions has also had a tough time although open systems and cabling have done well.

 London and St Lawrence reported a rise in its net asset value from 187.74p to 192.42p in the year to September. Net revenue, after taxation, rose from £1.9m to £2.05m, giving earnings per share of 6.23p up from 5.96p. Total dividend is 6.24p.

· Bourne End Properties has sold its freehold interest in the Magnet store in Guildford for £4.15m to Harmsworth Pooled Property Unit Trust. The store is let on a lease expiring in 2014 at a passing rent of £285,750 a year.

• Eliza Timsley plans to buy two engineering companies. Even-wood Engineering and GR Smithson, for up to £5.52m and raise £6.54m through a placing and open offer of shares at 110p each. Evenwood employs 170 staff and names Komatsu and ICB among its biggest customers for its fabricated assemblies and hydraulic tanks. Smithson has 190 employees, and makes medium weight pressings and welded sub-assemblies.

 Glenchewton exchanged contracts to sell the freehold of the Hinds Head pub in Bray, Berkshire for £450,000 cash. It will take a 25-year lease on the pub at £45,000 a year, with an option to buy back the freehold following certain of the five-year rent reviews.

· Brands Hatch Leisure, the motorsport venue promoter, announced the appointment yesterday of Sir Rodney Walker as nonexecutive chairman. Sir Rodney is chairman of the Sports Council of Great Britain, He is also the non-executive chairman of the Yorkshire Cable Group, Wakefield Trinity rugby league club and West Yorkshire Broadcasting.

 Rolls-Royce is joining forces with Marubeni, the Japanese trading company, in a pact designed to boost sales opportunities for its commercial aero engines, especially in the Far East. The firms will co-operate on a range of activities, focusing on Rolls-Royce's Trent programme in which Marubeni becomes a risk and revenue sharing partner.

	2 revount	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend	
Heary Bast (I)	75.5m (86.7m)	294m (2.71m)	7.8p (7.3p)	2.1p (1.95p)	
Af Bolgio (I)	10.2m (10.5m)	0.41m (0.66m)	0.96р (1.53р)	mii (nii)	
Henderson Highland (1)	- (-)	1.97m (4.92m)	3.57p (3.4p)	3p (2.9p)	
LANS Group (F)	k554m (k511m)	118.5m (118.2m) 11.8p (10.2p)	2.923p (-)	
Tie Rack (I)	48 7m (41.6m)	0.60m (0.49m)	0.7p (0.63p)	0.5p (0.5p)	
Wakebourse (I)	16.1m (18.5m)	0.21m (-0.36m)	0.6p (-1 1p)	- (-)	

Parsons has just a minute for a quick bop



PEOPLE & BUSINESS

The link between celebrity Nicholas Parsons bopping in Stringfellows nightclub and the vital subject of independent financial advice may not be immediately obvious. Let me explain. Yesterday morning a

throng of national press pho-Peter Stringfellow's famous London club for the launch of the "Save smarter for a rave retirement" campaign by IFA Promotions. Six specially bired pen-sioner "models" were raving

on the dance floor when noted quiz show host Mr Parsons refused to take to the floor. "I'll do anything," said the great man, "but I must make it clear that I'm not retired,

and wouldn't want to give that impression. Indeed not. Mr Parsons will celebrate his 69th birthday on Thursday as well as 50 years in show business, but there is

no sign of him letting up. Disaster was averted by Emma Chilvers, a 26-yearold, doe-eyed PR hackette from Lansons, the agency which was organising the photocall. The resourceful Emma inveigled the still sprightly Parsons on to the dance floor for an impromp-

bizarrely named Ugly Agency. Reporting the seamier side of City life is never pleasant. It is only the wider ramifica-

tions of this story which persuade me that, however distasteful, it must be told. When Thistle Hotels completed its recent flotation, the team of Thistle executives, merchant bankers and PR spin doctors who organised it

naturally decided to

celebrate. Following a night of de-bauch at the fashionable London club Annabel's in Berkeley Square, a PR executive who shall remain nameless (Nick Denton), from an agency that shall also remain anonymous (Shandwick), was seen by a colleague "on the streets of Soho wearing a Thistle Hotels bathrobe and

Apparently Merrill Lynch, one of the investment banks involved, had supplied a number of whips to the Thistle team, for reasons which this column has been so far unable to ascertain. I would now strongly advise readers of a nervous dis-

position to avert their eyes

and study the company

brandishing a whip".

By about six in the morning, the party of eight then retired to a flat in Gloucester Road. It was at this point that Richard Orders, a corporate finance director at Barings, elbowed the others aside, entered the kitchen and proceeded to make what can only be described as "a rather tasty Spanish omelette" for breakfast.

A Spanish omelette. When will this Euro-federalist madness end?

Invesco, the fund management group that swallowed MIM, has appointed AD Frazier Jr as executive vice president and a member of the board, Charles W Brady chairman of Invesco, says Mr Frazier brings "Outstanding management expertise and operational skills, demonstrated by his distinguished career in financial services and, most recently, his mas-

Olympic Games in Atlanta". Having seen the games on TV, that's not an achievement I would have boasted about.

terful oversight of the Cen-tennial Celebration of the

JD Sports, which makes replica football kits and sponsors Oldham Athletic, has made its two Manchester

founders rich with its £134m float. John Wardle and David Makin, who founded the business in Bury in 1981, will both make £14.5m out of the So are they happy? Mr Wardle, 52, a former fireman

glum yesterday as they explained the deal to the City. The reason is home-Mr Makin, who joined the business at 16, explains: We've been in the City for four weeks and we're tired of

it. We're looking forward to going back to Manchester

and running the business."

Makin, just 32, both looked

and MoD clerk, and Mr

Neville Buch, chairman of Blenheim, has made over £20m on the sale of his exhibitions business to Lord Hollick's United News and Media. So what's he going to do next?

"All my holidays this year have been trashed," says Mr Buch. "I spent my summer holidays sat on a boat in the middle of a Caribbean hurricane on the end of a

Mr Buch he says he would like to build up a new company when he returns from his post-sale break - "but it won't be in exhibitions. I've done that for 15 years".

John Willcock | 何·Final 何·helm

An old lady reborn in the pool of life



AT LARGE

magine you are 72 years old and heading rapidly for that plot in the cemetery at All Saint's Church, just down the road. Your life has been plagued by illness and serious operations. You live in a tiny terraced house in Cardiff with few possessions and no family except an ailing daughter and a couple of cats. Not much to live for, really, is there?

That's what Emily Godsall thought. "I was useless," she admits candidly. Almost a decade later, she looks like a cover model for Glamorous Granny magazine. She might even have trouble convincing bus drivers that she is entitled to concessionary fares. Her achievements have won her the 1996 Pharmaton Senior Sportswoman of the Year title. And it's all down to swimming.

Not just a gentle paddle across the pool with a rubber ring, either. Emily, now 79, is rated among the top 10 in the world at both backstroke and breaststroke for her age group. She has twice swum a mile at charity events - pretty good considering that the old Emily couldn't even manage a

"I was terrible then," she recalls. "I was really weak, a little old lady with legs like matchsticks." She had never been well all her life, and had undergone eight operations for everything from heart disease to acute panceatitis, from breast cancer to a double hia-

They say that when you're down, along comes a thief to steal your purse. "If it had been myself, I wouldn't have bothered, but then my daughter was very poorly and I had to look told was to get rid of the after her," Emily said. So she took up swimming. "I had nev-



Going to great lengths: 'The doctor gave me a check-up and said my pulse rate is 56, lower than Sebastian Coe,' says Emily Godsall, aged 79

er been any good at sports, but I realised I needed to take up some form of exercise, and swimming was the only one I thought I could do. I couldn't swim a width when I started."

She went along to the Em-pire Pool in Cardiff, very proud of her new swimming costume with a little skirt, and her decorative hat. "I had to look really hard to find one with blue and pink flowers on it. I didn't have any goggles: after all, I wasn't going to put my face in the water. The first thing I was awful costume and hat, and get

came home and went straight to bed because I was so tired." But she rapidly turned from a flapper to a fish. "Soon I could do about 50 metres. It just seemed to come naturally." It changed her too. "Instead of walking like a little old lady, I was standing more upright, and not getting out of breath."

Emily progressed so fast that she was entered in the Welsh Championships for her age group that year. It was the

The first few lessons took a great deal out of her. "I was hopelessly out of breath. I was lut I won the bronze. That was a real surprise. I was pleased not to be last."

A couple of months later, she travelled to the British Championships where she won a silver for breaststroke and a bronze for backstroke. "I was almost living at the pool then, training five times a week and helping handicapped swim-mers on Sundays." The following year, she broke the Welsh record for backstroke, a first competition of any sort eral occasions. In 1991 she took her first gold in the British

Championships at Leeds. She has now won 106 medals. Last year she became the

first Welsh person to win the annual Kia-Ora award for sporting achievement. It was a timely recognition of her success. In 1995 she won two golds at the GB Masters, and was chosen for the Welsh team for the 1996 World Championships in Sheffield, where she was placed in the top 10 in four events. Not bad for a woman who once had trouble walking to the bus stop.

Recently, she went to the doctor, worried about a lump

Photograph: Peter Jay out to be pectoral muscle. "He £500." To her, such an amount in one hit is as inconceivable as gave me a check-up and said my pulse rate is 56, lower than a Lottery win.

Sebastian Coe," she says proudly. Emily is even convinced that she's getting faster. But money is far less important than the fact that Emily has discovered life. She is out "I would love to do more of the house most days, and if World Championships, but I she's not swimming, she's docould only compete this year ing aquarobics, talking to because it was in Sheffield. For groups about what she has done or studying for her time-keeping exam. She's even startmost competitions, I put away 20p pieces, but for that, I had to get a second mortgage on my ed tai chi, "Since I took up house to pay for entry fees, swimming, my life has never travel, accommodation and been better, and I've travelled insuits. I would love to take all over the country. Nobody part in the European Chamcould have been in a worse state than I was. If I can do it, pionships next year in Prague,

Riches seem beyond **Smith**

Equastrianism GENEVIEVE MURPHY

The problems that have sidelined Robert Smith's two best horses. Tees Hanauer and Or-thos, could hardly have come at

thos, could naruly nave event at a more inoppositune time.
Having won the Pulsar Grand Prix at Valkenswaard in the Netherlands during August, Smith will be jumping for a £400,000 bonus prize at the Monterrey Horse Show, which begins today in Mosica. Were begins today in Mexico. Were he to win it, he would be com-peting for a £1m jackpet in Lux-

embourg next year. However, Smith, the 35-yearold son of Harvey, may find such riches beyond his reach, because. of injury. Tees Hanauer, his winning mount in Valleenswaard, has damaged a suspensory ligament and Orthos has a badly bruised foot. So Smith will rely on Mighty Blue in Monterrey. The horse is capable of winning smaller classes (he proved that point with a final-day victory at the recent Horse of the Year Show) but he would not be fancied to win a grand prix.

The four members of the British Olympic team - Gcoff Billington, Nick Skelton and the two Whitaker brothers - will also be jumping in Mexico. Last year John Whitaker won the Pulsar Grand Prix there on Grannusch, who will again be one of his mounts this week.

The Pulsar Crown operates on a three-show cycle: Luxembourg. Valkenswaard and Mon-terrey. The winner at any of these shows has the chance to collect a large bonus at the next two meetings - £400,000 for one more grand prix victory and £1m

for winning three in a row.

John Whitaker will have had those tempting figures in mind this year when he went to Luxembourg, where he jumped a clear first round on Welham the big class before having a single mistake in the next round to finish third. At Valkenswaard, where he still had a chance of the £400,000 bonus, he had exactly the same grows to finish 10th. the same scores to finish 10th.



LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

LEAGUE TABLE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 6 OCTOBER Foreign Back Bone Tessa's Little Warte Mr S A Scott Mr Steven Lawre Mr Steven Hart Monderfield Tuesday 297 **Last Gasp Gullits** Dr Tom Boyle Mr Carl Britton Maple Mousse E 293 That's Handy Harry Wimbledon Stupid Head 293 Mr Gerald Whitehead Dunkin is the Bes **291** Mr. S King Mr Paddy Falis 291 Mr Peter Frank The Velvet Alternative Ms Judy Wernick Up and Running Mr Graham Murfitt Double B Mr David Robins PER PER PER PE Baker Boys 5 Mr David R Bake Mr Grant Harriso Grant's Team

Mr S A Scott

Transfer period starts next Wednesday

Light Bulbs.

matches played between Monday 7 October published and are available upon request. Sunday 13 October inclusive. The Overall (Ov) column shows the total amount of points scored PRIZES in all matches played from Saturday 17 August -Sunday 13 October.

We are also publishing our Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 6 October.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The

oday we publish the latest results in our independent for the games played from the previ-Independent Fantasy Football game, out Monday in Sanday inclusive. They will also on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will Listed below you will find two scores. The Week be printed every Wednesday and again on 9 (Wk 9) column shows all points scored in Sunday. Terms and conditions are as previously

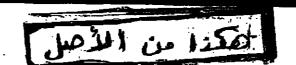
The overall winner at the end of the season will be the trant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Faultsy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize -a trip to the 1998 World Cup in Prance. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-filed and a some filed of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest soming team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Weaphies.

Injury problems? Poor form? If your team is period which starts on 23 October and runs until 1 November. In this time you have one chance to change up to three of your current players. The new selections will start scoring for your team from 4 November. See next Wednesday's paper for full transfer details.

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper|defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist \blacksquare I point when a player is selected and plays I point for a winning goal 3 points for a managerwin, I point for a draw Lose I point for a yellow card \ Lose 3 points for a red card

THE RESERVE



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April 1 Comment of the last

War with the f

Tote Direct route proposed to Superbet

GREG WOOD

Frankie Dettori's seven-out-ofseven at Ascot last month was huge return for a small outlay one of the most explosive per-formances in turf history, so it is fitting that the fallout is still arriving. The bookies have paid up and the punters have startto give it all back, but the most significant effect of Detmost signmeant energy yet tori's achievement may yet prove to be the seed of belief it

Mark Openshaw. Openshaw is the sales and marketing manager for Tote Direct, the company which supplies and services Tote betting of Britain's betting shops. He ti The Mary erage the jockey generated, on the front page of many newspapers and the serious end of television news programmes, and by the number of people

prepared to pursue an improb-

O Crack On 5.10 Kesanta

HYPERION

Cashflow Crisis 2.40 Courbaril 3.10 Pon-Waring (nb) 3.40 Shahrani 4.10 Chickabiddy

Eight-hand, unclusing course. Stiff test of stamma.

Course is 5m SW of Exeter on A38. Enter (St Davids main London (Paddingson) to Cornwill allway line. ADMIS Crandstand & Paddings SS: Steep Ring \$4.50 (accompanides-16s free). CAR PARK: Prec.

ELIGEREED FIRST TIME: Buglet (2.10).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Courbaril (3.40) won at Wincanton on Thursday, King Of Babylon (2.10) & Signa. Bun (2.40) both won at Ladlow on Thursday.
LUNG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Easty Bose (2.40) has been sext 192 miles by B Holimbead from Upper Longton, Staffordshire.

2.10 DEAN & DYBALL CONDITIONALS SELLING H'CAP H'DLE (CLASS G) £2,450 2m 3f

Minimum meight: 10st. True hardens weight: Aghtest The Clock Ser 12st. SETTEME: 3-1 Condition Crisis, 4-1 Begick, King Of Babylon, 5-1 Arville 8-1 Harlo's Dessus, 18-1 Faminy Figur, 12-1 others

2.40 DEAN & DYBALL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f

3.10 DEAN & DYBALL TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 6f 110yds

2.20 Phantom Haze 2.50 Delse Marshall

3.20 Done Well 3.50 Glemot 4.20 Highbeath

GOING: Good to Firm.
Left-hand oved circuit. Burs-in of 200yds alightly upbill.
Course to NE of town on B1224 near function of A58 and A1.
ADMISSION: Club 5.12 (accompanied under-16s free); Taxtensels
57; Course 52 (cass, including up to 4 schring 56). CAR PARE: Free.

THE LAST REVEN DAIS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Music Bitz (4.20) & Wille Wannsbe (4.20) here been sen 211 rolles by Mrs D Thomson from Minathort, Tayside; Glemot (3.50) sent 198 miles by K Sailey from Upper Lambourn, Berkshire.

2.20 GOLDSBOROUGH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3YO 2m

JACKSON PARK T Easerby 10 12 LAGAN K Morgen 10 12 LUCKY BEA M W Easterby 10 12 ON PARK T Easterby 10 12 ..

ALZORIG J Norton 10 12 No 7ny
P ARROGART HERE (26) D Stroin 10 12 Air A Robort
BROUNETON BRY J I. Eye: 10 12 D Peners
P CASHAPLENTY (26) H Nizonoben 10 12 Air K Windows
PRICES BETT F Murphy 10 12 Air K Windows
FRACINTS FLAME (1954) Mrs J Remoden 10 12 R Gentity
GRUNNE DANICER P Calver 10 12 Air Stroity
2 GLOBE RINNER (20) J J CYIGH 10 12 Air Stroity
ARROTE STROMER (20) J J CYIGH 10 12 Air Stroity
10 12 Air Stroity 10 12 Air Stroity

WELLER

4.50 Little Tincture

ably high return for a small stake. It convinced him that the time might finally have arrived to launch a weekly, pool-based bet offering the possibility of a - the long dreamed-of Superbet.

The concept of the Superbet has been bouncing around bookmaking circles for several years, but to such little effect that the mention of its name can set off a chorus of cynical snig-

Tote Direct launched the betting tion of entering six numbers on just right," Openshaw said yestance of many bookmakers, terminals which would allow a a betting ticket is familiar to the terday, "It could be a bridge be-most notably Ladbrokes and national pool bet on, say, the first six home in the correct order in a big handicap. Yet again, though, it generated a few columns-worth of copy, some vague statements of intent, and precious little else.

But as Openshaw points out. much has changed since then. In particular, a general public with limited previous experience in gers. The idea last floated blaying numbers games for big through racing's consciousness money has taken the National about three years ago, when Lottery to its heart, and the no-

average infant-school pupil. So too are the mechanics of a win-

PICHARD FOMONDSON NAP: Sagebrush Roller (Haydock 3.00) NB: Commande

ner-takes-ali pool which can be rolled over when no-one picks the right combination.

tween Lottery players and William Hill, to allow Tote Dibetting-shop punters, with a rect terminals into their offices. skill factor involved but not In order to guarantee the sort enough of one to put off fun of pool which would pull punpunters. You would need a ters off the streets, that barrier handicap of at least 18 runners each Saturday, and on about half of the Saturdays each year we already have a suitable race,

المكذا من الأصل

like the Ayr Gold Cup, Stewards' Cup or Cambridgeshire." Like all good ideas, of course,

would need to be breached.

"They need to realise that Tote business would be an addon, not competition," Openshaw says. "Their commission on the bet would be 20 per cent, which means that they get the thick end and the Tote gets the

overcome, not least the reluc- thin end, but with a bet like this, Amateur rider injured

fall from Forever Shy in the novices' chase at Sedgefield scathed.

to satisfy everyone.
"What it would take is a leap

of faith, not just from the bookmakers but also from the BHB. which would need to ensure that the races were there to bet on. But it is something which could benefit bookmakers big and small, and racing too." Unless both the BHB and the

bookmakers can be persuaded to share his vision, details such as how to guarantee enough runners and whether to impose an upper limit on the field, not to mention who would pay the setup costs, are irrelevant. What is certain, though, is that both sides of racing's traditional divide are suffering under the as-sault of the Lottery, and a Superbet would, unlike the arrival of fruit machines and betting on Irish Lottery numbers, offer a direct, positive benefit to the sport as well as the bookies. "Racing is a small world,"

Openshaw says. "This could help us to break out."

Muster makes boycott threat

Thomas Muster, of Austria, who is still incensed at abuse directed at him in a Davis Cup tie in Brazil last month, said yesterday that he would rather stop playing in the competition than risk injury at the hands of unruly fans. Muster, the world No 3, marched off court during the

clash between Austria and Brazil in São Paulo, after feeling threatened by the crowd. The International Tennis Federation last week ordered Austria to forfeit £39,000 in prize-money for failing to complete the tie and upheld £5,000 fines imposed on the spot against Muster.

Muster, in Hong Kong for the Marlboro Championships, defended his actions and said the referee's report was nonsense. 'If the ITF continues to support these countries and they continue to cause trouble, sooner or later somebody is going to be injured," he said, "But it will not be me. I am not interested in playing Davis Cup again. It is not sport. I will play next year and see [what happens]."
Australia's Patrick Rafter up-

set the third-seed. Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 in the opening round of the championships. Kafelnikov, the French Open champion, came up against an inspired Rafter. who won the match on his third match point after two breaks in the third set. Both players are in the Red Group, which includes America's Michael

Byron Black of Zimbahwe defeated Grant Connell of Canada 6-3, 6-4 in the Silver Group, which is headed by Pete Sampras, of the United States. Connell takes on the top-ranked Sampras today. Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman was also in fine form as he defeated Neville Godwin, of South Africa, 6-2, 6-3 in his opening match in the Gold Group.

The 12 players in the tournament are divided into four groups of three each, with the winner in each group advancing into the semi-finals.

Record blitz keeps Braves hopes alive

The Atlanta Braves kept alive their hopes of retaining the

World Series with a 14-0 demolition of the St Louis Cardinals on Monday. The victory cut the Cardinals' lead to 3-2 in the best-of-seven-games National League Championship Series. Although St Louis still lead

the series, they must win in Atlanta to face the New York Yankees in the World Series. which begins on Saturday. The Braves have won eight of their last nine post-season games at home, but no team has ever come back from a 3-1 deficit in the National League Championship Series. However, St Louis is the only team in Major League history to blow a 3-1 twice lead in the post-sea-son – in the 1968 and 1985 World Series.

Chipper Jones and Jeff Blauser drove in two runs each in a five-run first inning for Atlanta, who added another two runs in the second. Javy Lopez and Mark Lemke both tied the championship series record with four hits. Atlanta had a total of 22 hits, breaking the championship series record of 16 set by the Chicago Cubs in 1984.

John Smoltz, the favourite to win the Cy Young award, won his third post-season game and his 27th game this year. Even he ioined in the hitting spree, going two for four with an RBI and a run scored. He said: "We felt all along that, with a couple of plays, we could turn this series around. Maybe we did that tonight."

Gary Gaetti, the Cardinals third baseman, said: "Everything happened so fast the game wasn't even frustrating. I don't think it mattered what we did. They just kicked our



Weaver loses his appeal against ban

Jason Weaver yesterday lost his appeal against a four-day suspension for irresponsible riding meted out at Pontefract. The offence triggers a deferred five-day ban from August, putting Weaver on the sidelines for a total of nine days. His suspension begins today and runs until Friday week.

Weaver's appeal against the ban was quickly dismissed by the Jockey Chub's disciplinary committee in Portman Square, who upheld the rating of the Pontefract stewards.

Mark Johnston's stable jockall leading jockeys in the Jockey Club's crackdown against rid-

5 63005-4 WESTERLY GM.E (18) N Handerson S 11.0 _ M A Playland 6 06-0422 CUR WORD (18) P Rection 6 20 9 _ ____ & Bernaugh 7 0234 THE LAST MISTRESS (42) I Mode 9 20 9 _ ___ W Maraton — 7 ductional — 6ETUNE 5-4 Pongs Warley, 11.4 Westernly Gale, 4-1 Our Nifet, 8-1 Emerald Knight, 10-1 Dubolle, 20-1 Finant Inhand, 25-1 The Last Mistress

3.40 WILLIAM HILL GOLDEN OLDIES' STAKES

added 1m 5f

110yds

MA W Romer 4.11.9.

BETTING: 1-3 Shahami, 7-1 Calogue, 8-1 Haty Rose, 19-1 Bright Supplies, 18-1 Seel, My Hamintit, 25-1 others

4.10 DEAN & DYBALL NOVICE HANDICAP

4.40 DEAN & DYBALL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £3,750 added 2m 1f 110yds

1/32114 CRACK DN (272) (D) P Hobbs 6 12 0 ______ A P McCoy 1/3111 OUT MANIGNG (L/G) (ED) N Ppp 4 11 13 ____ C Minusio 304-216 ESHIO DE MANIGNG (L/G) (ED) G Edwards 5 10 0 _____ CO-6532 LETTLE HOOLIGAN (L/G) (ED) G Edwards 5 10 0 _____

- 4 declared Albhaum weight: 10st. Two handlesp neight: Utile Hoolgan Set 12b.
BETTING: 5-4 Out Ranking, 8-4 Creck Ou, 6-1 Little Hoolgan, 9-1 Echo
De Januar

5.10 DEAN & DYBALL MARES NOVICE HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added

BESTHIC: 13-4 Incline Creek, 3-1 Kennette, 4-1 List Longs, 9-2 Sunst St-cons, 5-1 Dragonesist, 10-1 Hydradia, 25-1 others

3.20 YORKSHIRETYNE TEES TV HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m

1 S2234-1 (CLASS C) £6,500 acticled 2m 4f 3.10yds
1 S2234-1 (CLASS C) £6,500 acticled 2m 4f 3.10yds
2 115501- MASTER BOSTON (160) (CD) R Woodrouse 8 1.9 _ L West
3 122260- DE JOHDANN (163) (C) W Chronighen 9 1.0 8.4 Williamson
4 114122- SENERAL COMMON (21) & Riversia 8 1.0 7. R Demondry
5 312-FG3 CROSS CHARGEN (23) White 10 10 7 ______ A Regime
6 211F2-3 LOCHWARDM (123) (D) Mrs M. Riveky 8 10 3 _____ P Nove
15 40ctored - 8 40ctore

4.20 HALLFIELD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 4f 110yds

SMART APPROACH (21) Mrs M Revely 6 11 1 OLE GLE (597) Mrs E Moscopp 10 11 0 PENGLE HENCH (181) G Mosco 6 11.0

GORDON FOSTER HANDICAP CHASE

(CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

2m 1f 110vds

CHASE (CLASS E) £4,750 added 2m 1f

(CLASS H) (INVIDATION RACE) £2,000

means he will have been on the sidelines for 42 days this year. Weaver, who misses the Ce-

sarewitch meeting at Newmarket, was incensed by the Pontefract stewards' decision ey has been the hardest-hit of and said then: "Any interference was minimal. They are trying to take away a man's livelihood."

ing offences. The latest ban The amateur rider Sarah Lamb

HYPERION

GOING: Heavy. STALLS: 7f 30pd & Im 40pd — Inside; remainder — outside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 6f; Low from 7f 30pd to 1m 40pd.

Let-hand course, almost fair; straight 6f course.

E Course is near junction of A580 and MS. Newton station 2m. ADMISSEON: Course.

Stand £14; Taturanils £8; Newton Stand £3.50 (OAPs half-price in Tattersalls and Ne

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS; J Dunlop — 22 winners from 124 runners gives a success ratio of 22.6% and a profit to a 51 level state of 53.95; J Gosdon — 24 winners, 11 runners, 21.6%, -59.36; H Geell — 23 winners, 62 runners, 37.1%, +518.67; J Bearry — 20 winners, 215 runners, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 7, 7.

ELEADING JOCKETS: W Bysn — 33 winners, 146 rides, 22.6%, +537.39; Pat Eddery — 27 winners, 87 rides, 31%, +535.19; 1 Carrell — 26 winners, 227 rides, 11.5%, -551.69; L Dettori — 21 winners, 148 rides, 14.2%, -569.01.

BURKERED FIRST TIME: Manhattan Diamond, Melly Drammond & Sparkling Harves (2.00). Comm. Comm. 2009.

y (2.00); Coesa Grove (3.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EXPINERS Harbour Dees (3.30), Kenthely Fall (4.00) & Tassell (5.00) sent 242 faller by Luly Herries from Arginering Park, W Smeer, Myrosidon (2.00), Generge (2.30), Alicha (4.00) & Bechstein (5.00) sent 223 miles by J Dunlop from Armdel, W Smeer.

130 EBF HAWTHORN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,300

added 2YO 7f 30yds Penalty Value £3,160

3.30 Murajja 4.00 Dance Star

4.30 My Valentina

). CAR PARK: Free.

200 Fine Times

was taken to North Tees Hospital in Stockton with concussion and suspected internal injuries after taking a crashing

first fence when Forever Shy.

trained under permit by Kathleen Lamb, the injured rider's mother, fell heavily and brought down Rapid Fire, the mount of Eddie Callaghan, who was un-Miss Lamb was knocked un-

conscious in the fall, but had re-The incident happened at the rst fence when Forever Shy, she was taken to hospital.

— 25 augustus — 1 Sachfishome, 9-1 Burnto, 10-1 Albur, Stoffund, 22-1 Franch Golt, Oberon's Durt, Ocean Grave, Prime Silt, 14-1 Sue Health, Boy, Saghetout Rober, 20 intropid, 16-1 others 1998: Double Spiendour 5 & 10 W Ryen 8-1 (P Feigure) 24 cm

1996: Doubte Spendour 5 8 10 W Ryen 8-1 (P Feigne) 24 cm

From GUIDE

The 2.00 race will give the clue to the draw adventage for this, but OCEAN GROVE, who
will like the ground, looks to new a cracking draw one off the through stands sole rail, and
itsely to be approved by ploday's flex; three bitniess. Ocean Grove has been running over longer
tips and shaped as though ready for a win behind Nunstarps here (7h 15 days ago. Staffed
looks sure to be backed after his three second to Cone Sawige at York a week ago. However, he's drawn in the middle here and the ground will be softer. Gyles Parken middle here and the ground will be softer. Gyles Parken middle stree and the ground will be softer. Gyles Parken middle stree who is drawn low today. If, by any chance, the low numbers clocked in the 2.00, Be shealth
Boy would have to be considered. Be Warmed has his ground and was second under 9s;
10to to Double Sciendour in this sprint less year. Dawen right next to Stuffed, Be Warmed
may just find himself with too much ground to make up. Prima Sift, seems best drawn but
prefers fast ground, as does U-No-Harry (drawn 20). So latingful, who acced on the unrelevanted side at Agr last time, was previously a close soft in the local on their at Goodwood. He
is in with a definite chance from a good draw and with Pat Eddey booked. Something is
steely to best French left in this soft ground. Bearato set him on the fast at Rock care is so propy to used intension and use such ground as soft as this, though Saddlehome has and franke Detton's mount is drawn to figure – a high draw seemed to court against him at

10	N, ISS WE	ek Sometion of the last
E	3.30	KING'S REGIMENT CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,700 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £4,960
1	311675	(CALABO (CISA) (SB) (D) (Socialphn) Seest bin Supply 4 9 10 L Dettert 7
2	20-1030	JUNUSH (USA) (117) (D) Planton Al Makesure; 8 Hab 4 98
3		PRUISSIAN BLUE (USA) (46) (D) (L Martropoulos) H Coci 4 9 8
4	130 014	MURALIA (USA) (60) (C) (Hamdar Al Malezum) P Vision 4 9 6
5	21,3223	MARIOS MUSIC (USA) (33) (D) (SF) (Nextros Fernily) H Carol 4 9 2Pat Eddary 5
6	006326	PAST MASTER (USA) (151) (Normern Bloodstock Record 5 Goldings 8 9 2
7	6054-34	PENNY A DAY (193) (CD) (BF) U Good) Mis M Reveloy 6 9 2
8	363-113	PURPLE SPLASH (147) (C) (SEF) (Ser Chestopher Walterd) P Moton 6 9 2
9	225460	TEN PAST SEX (6) (C) (J S Kennerbylviss J Half) M Wore 4 9 2Dean McKeown 11
10		HARBOUR DUES (98) (D) (RF) (Hesmonds South Lavy Herres 3 8 11
11	41	MOHAWK BIVER (42) (Shelin Mohammed) N Strute 3 B 11
12	1203	SUMMER SPELL (USA) (53) (W Y & Mrs. E.S. Robers) R Charlon 3 8 11 S Sundon 6
13		QUANCES FIELD (18) Of Higgory GT, Moore 389 @ Detheld 12
14	436600	WEET-A-MONTE (\$3) (Ed Westman Ltd) R Holinsheed 3 8 9
15		STORY LINE (16) (Brouston Homes Ltd B Hills 3 8 4
_		- 15 decimal -
	7040-7.9	Made Maria & 2 Summer Stell E.1 Kalaba 7.4 Maralla & 1 Install & 1 Harbons

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

BIOHAWIK REVER is short on experience, but he looked promising behind Air Quest at Newbury in April and was good enough efter the layoff to win at style from Filmore West (verner next time) at York lest month. Mohawik Rever nes the scope to pull this off, Hambear pees will like the ground and rates a big danger on his unfucity Royal Ascot run and his fourth to Clerkenwell in the Elon. President Blose, three lengths behind him at York, is 7 ib better off, but Henry Cecif's charge, along with his close pursuer at Goodwood in May, Purgle Splants, really werks further than this 12 furlongs, March Maske gets an Sib pull with Kalabo on fast-ground form behind Blusy Fight at Concessive last month, but both look best-able today. Maraille has winning form in the soft and has every hope of staying despite a below-par run in the John Porter first run of season). Juyush has been off since Royal Ascot, while Peenry A Day is another making a beloted return to action. Story Likes is a likely sort after finding a mile too sharp when third to Ai-Royal at Bath. That was her first run for four months and this juverille winner in the soft ran Heron Island to under a length at Salisbury in May – form which gives her a real chance here. Selections MOHAWIK RWER

research work are experimented users a depot or over a man or promoting the real green and that several-length statu to Panatria City is bound to be improved upon. Cattlemens kicked off a strong race at Kempton (Bifth to Palaik) and was then outpaced in a stowly run affair at Ayr. He looks capable of going close today on this slower surface. Right Wing has every chance of going well on the ground being a son of in The Wings, but the Daylor thy Talphobech may 2.00 SYCAMORE NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,750 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £3,696 450JAJ SERSAL EQUATY (28) (A.S. Habited) B Meener o Jac. 1230 BRUTAL FANTASY (9) (D) (Diamond Recing Let) J L Eyre 8 11. 566402 PTRET TRIBES (11) (Staggler House Paul) C Paufusz 8 11. 215 TRUSANT (96) (D) (Covery Partners) D Michae 8 11. 330 SOOA (80) (A P Buris Designments Let) T D Baron 8 11. 44(1005 CHERONGE RIGHT (19) (B) (P A Leonard) Ms. J Remode 8 10. 6250 MANINTTHIN DAMAGNED (10) (A Bearlass Hagited A Bailey 8 7 ... 7 205 CHERONGE RIGHT (19) (B) S Racing P Webber 8 7 ... 8 605005 SPARIOLNES HAMPY (11) (A Brussel Covery P Webber 8 7 ... 9 252 HARRIEL LAVO (12) (The Hugil Lodge Partnership) J W Webs 8 7 ... 9 0600 SPARIOLNES HAMPY (11) (A Brussel Covery P Webber 8 7 ... 9 0600 MENT O STA (18) (Larens Reprise) R Rivey 8 5 ... 9 1 346331 CONDE TOO MANINGAYS (27) (D) (IX Brown) J Beary 8 3 ... 9 336462 MOLLY NEESE (23) (P F Arm of 6 Mingson 8 1 ... 20 336462 MOLLY NEESE (23) (P F Rom of 6 Mingson 8 1 ... 21 353200 PALL TRACEARILTY (13) (D) (Special Sides Pertnership) J J Offeld 7 11. 22 door TRUS PERSPECTIVE (20) (T R Lodg J Batter) 7 10... 23 4 Maning L Larenship New Menter (14) Destroy 7 10... 24 Accepted -... 25 Accepted -... 26 Accepted -... 27 Accepted -... 28 Accepted -... 28 Accepted -... 28 Accepted -... 29 Accepted -... 20 Accepted -... 21 Accepted -... 22 Accepted -... 23 Accepted -... 24 Accepted -... 25 Accepted -... 26 Accepted -... 27 Accepted -... 28 Accepted -... 28 Accepted -... 29 Accepted -... 20 Accepted -... 21 Accepted -... 22 Accepted -... 23 Accepted -... 24 Accepted -... 25 Accepted -... 26 Accepted -... 27 Accepted -... 28 Accepted -... 28 Accepted -... 29 Accepted -... 20 Accepted -... 20 Accepted -... 20 Accepted -... 21 Accepted -... 22 Accepted -... 23 Accepted -... 24 Accepted -... 25 Accepted -... 26 Accepted -... 27 Accepted

Michigaer weight: 7st 10th. True handlop weight: True Pesspective 7st 3th.
SETING: 6-1 Ellens Led, 7-1 Come Tap Memorits, 15-2 Fine Brace, 8-1 blurgil Lady, Myend
18-1 Learn Minist, 23-1 Johnt Venture, Levelled, 14-1 Spenting Harry, 16-1 others
1996: Clasterhouse Xpee 2 7 4 N Variey 20-1 (M McCommath) 11 cm

1995: Chartertouse Xpes 2 7 4 N Vadey 20-1 (M McCarmach) 11 cm.

FORM SUBPE

A high draw is usually a big help on the straight on this course and the colt with the plum position is JOSHT VENTURE. from Brian Meehan's in-form stable. He returns fresh after his less start at Glorious Goodwood where he showed his customany early speed and his sole win was gained on this course in similar ground in May when he costly best Future Prospect, who won next time out. Myosaldos is also nicely drawn, but he was exposed in a nursery at Sandown and was well besten behind Heart Throb at Lingled 12 days ago, Being a son of Polish Patrice, Elliens Lad may do even better on this ground after his Folicestone nursery win on the fast. Drawn in the middle today, Elliens Lad would have been the selection had be been nearer the shands side risk. There was money for Wiley O Six on the course lest time, his well drawn here and, though six furiongs seems more his trip, he could still go well as a price on this soft ground — the oot hading from the High Premium stable. Familie better for Juniar Missic is ins-resting, though this pacey filly may not be safed by the changed ground. Dusley Modifier's pel' Tucklenial and Express Glid ner both winner in the soft, but they have to exercome a love time. Carlliste winner Levelled is surely better then his York run suggiests, though her so by, used from stall 12, while soft ground winner Bental Faustery looks stretched from stall tyre. Place Times Improved on the soft ground last time and is preferred to the well-drawn S ade.

	GALA CLUBS CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,200 added 270 1m 30yds Penalty Value £4,461
1 1	FRANCIS (55) (Haradan Al Melittum) H Thorson Jones 9 1R Halls 2
	901CASA (63) (Suburi Al Kabeer) / Dunito 9 1T Sprain 1
3 010	HONE ALONE (15) (D) I) H Armitadeù J Gostien 9 1
	SHEER FOLLY (USA) (112) (# Murdim Partnership) P Cole 9 1
5 . 0	20004, CROWN (25) Dika John Magrato P Chappin Hyem 8 11
6 1	HANF ALEAADYN, (USA) (12) (Sheiki Ahmed A) Matazum) M Spote 8 10 D Harrison 7
7 1	FUR (25) (D) (HEH Poisce Field Saleste) H Cool 8 10 Pat Eddary 5
	-7 declared -

Royal Coses 1997 Pat Eddary 4-8 (H Cool) 4 ran 1985: Inchrory 2 9 7 Pat Eddary 4-8 (H Cool) 4 ran PORM GLEDE

grade judget on the Neutralines severals to regular, but the form of his Godowlood will never this trip has taken a few impoke. Bonamage is a sure-fire improver after his Salesbury (7) with from Another Night. He got home despite being taily turned up and, being a son of Pictolst Bisu, he should relish the underfoot conditions. Failute best Another Time by further over the same course and distance eight days letter, but Sheer Folly is on totally different ground and is returning from a leyoff after his whoning debut at Kempton in June. Dr Devous's half-brother Royal. Crown needs to improve on his debut run behind Asse at Newmarket to trouble these.

1.2	-	TOMBLY WALLS HAMDICAP (CLASS IN #5.5	inn added Ri
IĿ	200	Penalty Value £4,085	
1			
9	10000	SO BITREFO (25) (5) (F & Housed) M Stades 6.9.13	Pat Eddary 17
;	4.040	AT THE LETS AT F Married R Markon 3012	M Tabbett 14
1	400050	MARCHAET LAS AND AND CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT	T Shelf 1
9	2-00000	"AL MEET (130) OO; (The German Partysource 4) 1/4 Hearmonn's 5.9 7	5 ومحدادي الــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
10	243000	THE SHOPP FOX (7) 40 Whitehald B McMahon 4 9 8	Forture 21. B
11			
	048322	FRENCH COST 45 FO C Michael Willand M Dork 4 9 5	A Clerk 2
	251002	THE WARD IN SECTION AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY ADDRESS OF THE PROPERT	ک پیم دست در
	204002	COURTED (1) Ind (12th bottes) current shrings by a case of a s	4
	30,4600	n-win-largest, (22) Ini in robbiscoppi & Hopurgery 3.8.3 — — —	i iyeda (1) 20
16	220502	PRIMA SELK (19) (D) (Novemb Park Stud) M Ryan 5 9 2	R Hughes 24
17	512100	392 (1982) 20 (25) (27) (20) (1986) (20) M W Esstarby 392	
	000001		7 00-07 12
	1234567899112945578	1 1.4650 2 106060 3 1-940 4 100050 6 300040 7 5-46150 9 2-00000 10 243000 11 612582 12 046322 13 1-00000 14 254002 15 314605 16 220502 17 512150 18 000040	5 051200 STOPPES BROW (25) (b) (C) Pennick) 8 L Moore 4 9 10. 5 300040 BROWL OF HOPE (4) (b) (Pennick) 8 L Moore 4 9 10. 7 5-84550 PRECIOUS SERL (46) (b) (Pe A Method 3 10. 8 350500 OCEAN BROWL (13) (b) (P G Area) D Notes 3 9 8 . 9 240000 AL REEF (120) (b) (The Garel Perhensis) 9 (l) Historick 59 7 . 10 243000 PRE WAYPY FOX (7) (8 Whitehald 9 McMahan 4 9 8 . 11 612532 GREGORYS DART (25) (P Or Morris Windge P Moha 3 9 6 . 12 045322 PREMICH (80) (F Mohan 4 9 8 . 13 1-00000 ARR WIND (4) (P H Dess Schädungs Lach M Tompkins 3 9 4 . 14 254002 STUPPED (7) (b) (Enry Morring Breakfust Syndholis) M W Breaterly 4 9 . 15 314625 L'HADO-MARY (23) (b) (9 Coppendo) P A Hollisched 3 9 8 . 16 202502 PRIMA SILK (15) (D) (Norcolt Park Stud) M Tyan 5 9 2 . 17 212100 BRE RESIGN BOY (25) (CD) (BRE Method) Into M V Breaterly 3 9 2 . 18 2000040 SANDLESORE (25) (7) (9) (FF) (Fest) Stop) I D Broom 7 9 2 .

LUCKY BEA M W Existery 10 12. N Williamsteen MOST RESPECTFUL Devys Stoth 10 12. P Nove O PHANTOET DANCER (32) M Scientify 10 12. D Partier PHANTOET DANCER (32) M Scientify 10 12. A Boundary PROPOUS POWER M W Essistry 10 12. A Boundary SOR OF ANSHAM Mas A Switzenk 10 12. P Shappie AUTOPIE I Wenneright 10 7 P Bildaginy (3) COUNTESS OF CODIZ (DRA) Miss J Cazze 10 7. A Dobbie 72 TALLIAAR BELLE (10) N Limitoden 10 7. M Richards — 19 declared — - 19 deciared -4.50 ASKHAM RICHARD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,500 edded 3m 1f 2.50 BOBBY RENTON NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3m 1f CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3m 1f 1 320234 COOL WEATHER (161) P Cinestrough 8 11 10 R Supple 2 101421 MORY-SIDP (158) (D) Mrs S South 7 11 9 Richard Guest 3 334065 CHESTOR (177 (158) M Wilmson 9 11 5 P News 4 PR204 2 DISSE MARSHALL (25) 1 Weds 8 11 4 A binguise 5 419-5 COMMANDEER (21) Mrs M Millighn 6 10 11 ... A S Smith 6 Millian 2 QUECAL CROSSETT (10) E Care 11 10 0 ... Mr P Millian (T) - 6 disclayed ... - 6 disclayed ... Command (1) Millian R weight 102. Thus harmicon weight Quical Crossett St St. Millian R weight 102. Thus harmicon weight Quical Crossett St St. Millian R weight 102. Thus harmicon weight Country (1) ... A S Smith Millian R weight 102. Thus harmicon weight Quical Crossett St St. Millian R weight 102. Thus harmicon weight Crossett St St. 90105F PERSEL BENCH (2001) is Motors 6 10.13 W Ryy 4046F5 - COOL STREL (175) Mers 1 Bronn 4 10.10 _____ E Callaginus (3) 512316 13THE TIMESHEE (12) Mer 1 Motornes Stature 6 10.6 - S Margines (30) - R Supple 82000 P HEDDON INMARY (21) P Caesthrough 6 10.5 _____ R Supple 96303-5 MRSS PROMESSON (128) 1 Marche 5 10.2 _____ E Hesband (2) 6 declared (2) PETING: 6-4 Smart Approach, 4-1 Little Tracture, 9-2 Pointle Seach, 6-1 Gathe's Boy, 7-1 Mrs Withheam, 12-1 Heddan Hangt, 20-1 others

RACING RESULTS £1,167.79. Tito: £503.90. Not translation, Wet Petch.
4.00°; J. TE Albio (S Sanders) 7-2; 2. Lold
4.00°; J. TE Albio (S Sanders) 7-2; 2. Lold
5-2 fav. 3. McCallyeutidy Review 20-1, 20
nth. 14, 3. (R Aleitung, Enson), Totes £5.00;
£1.90, £1.90, £2.90. DF: £4.50. CSF:
£1.37.2 Totes £46.30, Non Runners Custaged
Welcome, Solider Cove.
4.80°; 1. QUESTIONIA (Pat Edder), 11-8;
4.80°; 1. QUESTIONIA (Pat Edder), 11-8;
2. Miss Riviers 5-4 fav. 3. Saleonnah 5-1.
5 ma. hd. 6. (M Cocil., Nowmarket). Totes
£2.20°; £1.40, £1.10. DF: £1.30. CSF:
£2.3.31. LEICESTER

Lin; 1. ATTITUDE (C Ruser) 14-1; 2. Rewir source 4-9 lay; 3. Auction Paris 8-1
19 win, 2; 4; 197 Cardy, Wardagel, Total
15/40, 2; 60, 51:00, 51:60, Dual Forecast
15/420; 25:60, 51:00, 51:60, Dual Forecast
15/420; 25:60, S1:00, 51:60, Dual Forecast
15/420; 27:60, S1:00, 51:60, Dual Forecast
15/420; 13-40; 30:40, S1:40, 4, 10 Dual
15/40; 13-40; 13-40; 14-10, 12-70, Dr.
15/40; 14-10; 15/40; 15/40, 12-70, Dr.
15/40; LEICESTER

23.31.
5.00: 1. OUR PEOPLE () Wester 5-1; 2.
5.00: 1. OUR PEOPLE () Wester 9Michael Venture 33-1; 3. Deep Winter 94 tw. 12 ran. % 1. (M Johnston, Middleham). Total: 57.00: 52.30, 512.60, £1.10.
DF: £133.90. CSF. £138.03. Tho: £273.20.
John Burner. Pindrindha. Non Runner: Mineranicita. Jackpot: not won (pool of £2,383,22 to Hay-

dock today). Placepol: £182.70. Quadpot: £23.90. Place 6: £151.08. Place 5: £121.41. SEDGEFIELD 215: 1. RED JAM JAR (0 Corn) 7-2; 2. Classic Crest 10-1; 3. Shefton Abbey 9-2 9 sm. 11-4 fay Sousin (4th), 2,5. (S Bel, Driffeld, Tota: 53.90; 51.70, 52.10, 51.50, DF: 527.90, CSF, 532.41. Tricost 5132.63. Tric: £25.10. 2.45: 1. CLOVER GERL (G Card) 5-1; 2.

MCH (21) Me M Reveloy 6 11 11 P Meen McH (21) Me M Reveloy 6 11 11 P Meen Met E Moscop 10 11 0 T Revel

Thunderstruck 11-2; 3. Beldine 7-4 fm. 3 ren. 1%, 19. (D McCain, Croknordely). Tetes £12-30; £2-00, £3-60. DP. £17-10. CSF. £59-00. 4-15-1. JENDEE (6 Carls) 16-1: 2. The Gefforh tenior 13-8 tar; 3. Grand Scenery 7-2. 7 ran. rk; 21. (8 Elson). Yebr: £19-90; 56-10, £2-20. DF: £20.70. CSF: £41.03. In-gast: £106.31. NR: Woodlands Gerbins. Cast £108.31. NR: Woodlands 4.45: 1. LE DENSTAN (T Re 4.46; 7. LE DENESTAN (I REGUI ZI-1; 2. Bion Charm 5-6 far; 3. Val de Ranta 7-2. 10 ren. 3/4. 8. (Mrs D Thomson, Ministrorp), Tolar: £17.80; £4.60; £1.10. £1.90. DE £28.90. (SP. £28.90, Ft. £19.50. 5.15: 1. DURAND (Richard Guest) 4-7 fav; 2. Big Perfus 9-1; 3. Sumanan 12-1, 9 cm. 24, ½. (Days Smith, Bishop Austern), Tolan £1, 80; 5.100, £3.80, £3.70, DP: £19.30, CSF: £8.33. Tricr £10.20, Places 6: £194.11. Place 5: £93.49,

_W Ryen 4

HETTHE 3-1 Fil. 4-1 Sheer Febr. 9-2 Febris, 5-1 Contrade, Home Alene, 7-1 Blet Albertiya, 20-1

Henry Cadi thinks highly of the Reinbow Quest fily Full, who is taken to beat the colts after her debut win over this trip at Sendown. Heavily backed, Fill am gere on the home turn, but she butkled down well to the task and was always holding the more experienced Alphabet. She looks the type to handle the anter conditions and her 550 esc allowence could make all the difference in the closing stages. Afforder Struce also goes with a fiby in Blatt Albeedlys, who is sure to come on for her debut win at targleid (67) 12 days ago. Out of a 10-furlong winner, she should appreciate today's longer trip. House Albae is on the upgade judged on his Neutraniest severalt to Papus, but the form of his Goodwood win over this trip has taken a five language. Secretaris in a sum-tile internative first be Saleston. The

4.00 BOOKER CASH AND CARRY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YO filles 1m 2f 120yds Penelty Value £3,890 Baseball

Ministers weight: 7st 10th. Two handloop weights: Alleger Fa 2th, Ising Brown 7st 1th.
BETWICE 4-1 Owners, 11-2 Stating San, b-1 Kentucky Fat, 13-2 Scenicris, 15-2 Alicha, 8-1 Dance Start, 10-1 Deline, Sweetness Herself, 14-1 Absolve/patroning, 16-1 others
1985: Delvarath Days 3 8 10 M Roberts 10-1 (A Street) 15 cm

1995: Debutaria Days 3 8 10 M Roberts 10-1 (A Stevent) 15 am.

PORTH GLIDE

Airc Stevent won this last year and can follow up with DIVINE, who ran away with 3 small makiden at Hamilton and then besten over a longer trip when favourits for a Goodwood handleap. A desighter of Dowlaid, she has every chance of improving with this cut in the ground Commit has a big weight and Kentschy Fall, besten four lengths by Omara at Folkestone after showing earlier promites at Sandown, is 3th better today. Pellais Rhythma sho chaped nicely in the same Sandown races. Sweetness Herself won over a longer trip (1m67) here 11 days ago, but she acts on the ground and can be considered against so many out-of-tom thets. Welspering Dewer less won in the soft, but as ungrown at this trip, while Demes Star, fourth to Nemoodely here, is stad to like the soft. The makiden Sossileris can be considered on her latest obser then to Mels Saby at Portistract, while Absolutelystamaling has claims with her low weight.

Selection: DIVINE

4.30 EBF HANTHORN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,300 added 2YO 7f 30yds Penalty Value £3,144 O MOCCASIN (102) (Paul Webber) P Webber 1 2 NEY WALESTINA (26) (D J Doer) 8 Hills 8 9 . TO TO Dod Desmond Crown D Arbuthot 8 9 VENETRAL SCINE (138) Rednard Green Fire Parengs) P Cole 8 9 ... - 11 decimed BETTING: 5-2 My Valentine, 3-1 Select, 7-2 Courtship, 5-1 Caging, 8-1 Atrob, Venetian Scene, 14-

COMMITTARIE was besten on his debut – the coft being an unexpy towards when second on Mashheer as Newmantel. But that experience will stated him in good stand for this test in the mud and he warrants a second chance coming from a good family. David Loder's new-comer Salauri should like the gound. He's by Polesh Proceders and his winning dam is a sigher to Gone West and Uon Cavern. The other two with form are falled by Valendinia was a pleasing second to Etoile at Newbury, though she comes from a fast-ground farrey, while Vessettan Scape may find this too hot on her connetract run after a debut third to Cover at Lincester (5th in carry Jums, Atmeb is a Riverman sky who stoped neety at Lingsleid, and she may cope with the ground better than As-le.

[5.00	HOLLY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 add Penalty Value £3,792	ed 1m 4
1	3-	ADOMSSS (473) (John Peters Adoness Sendicate) D Seventh 4 9 5	_D Harrison !
2	54202	DATO STAR (\$47) (IL Riley, Mrs M Guittre & Joe Doraid:) J M Jefferson 5 9 !	5K Fadion (
3		NOTHFUE (Michael Saurcies) B Rotheel 495Dear	Hickeens 🖆
4	9-0	VITUS (172) (Lord Howard de Walden) H Cool 4 9 5	Pat Eddery 12
5	62004	NECHSTEIN (10) (Benry Andersson) J Dunkop 3 8 12	T Quinn 4 !
6	0	BROWNSTON SOCIARE (70) (Charles Egenton) C Essetten 3 8 12	R Husbos 1/
7	43-3240	CLEMBRIE (1A1) (Roose P Beaten) R Harron 3 8 12	11 O'Nell ودو
8	00	GOLD LANCE (USA) (134) (Mis Barbara Marchard R (75,dogs 3 8 12	S Sanders S
9	6	TAGGEL (191) (J.A. Lazzeri) Lady Hernes 3 8 12	K Durley 11
1		DENMOND DAVICE (15) (ST) (Shelif: Michard J Gorgen 3 8 7	
1	. 0	FAIR LNOY (BEL) (2) (C Persotnern) ! President (Bel) 3 8 7	Decreis (7) 1
7	45224	HEART (12) (BF) (Phile Newton) M Strate 3 B 7.	M Roberts
1		LOCHNOOD (Hammer And Pincers Patnesstup) A Basley 3 8 7	
ī		MADAME STEINLEN (19) (87) (Sr Erc Parker) B Hills 3 B 7	. M 5404 5
1		SEA OF STONE (USA) (93) (Sheith Mohammed) L Cuman 3 8 7	
1		SOLITABLE (FR) (Marchos Family) Wis J Card 3 8 7	
_	•	Annual & M. Calenter : man 1 and 2 de l'Annual de l'An	

BETTING: 3-1 Vitus, 7-2 Dato Star, 9-2 Bechstein, 5-1 Sea Of Stone, 6-2 Heart, 7-1 Clean

1996: Richelieu 3 8 11 W Ryan 6-1 (H Cecil) 19 ran

Date Star rearms to action after injuring a hock here in February, Melecian Jefferson reports him leaen in his home work and the Champion Hurdle is the big target for the five-year-old. But the younger brigade can take this with SEA DF STONE looking the part in the staying department. — her darn being a wenner over this trip. Her two runs in the summer were on lest glound and those placed editors to Dawns at Virmonuth and Limpus at Windows gless her every chance today. Beckstellar's best runs have been in the mud (second to Harbour Dues at Lingfield in May) and, while he will be plugging on, Sectisten looks best believe the little startidise fourth to Sugar Alla here. Henry Cacif has been patient with Vitus, who thad a year between his two starts and again returning from a layoff, Basted to some fine stayers, Vitus wouldn't be a surprise winner. Dismond Dence was disappointing here 19 tays ago (racad on opposite said of opures to the winner) start a depart debut out at Sandown, while the other Wing Heart, and Mediane-Stelleien et of theirs who are proving costly to follow. Jude Ceci?'s newcomer for Scallader's Wells town are proving costly to follow. Jude Ceci?'s newcomer for Scallader's Wells trons

– 13 decimed – BETTENG: 1-2 Courters, 6-1 Signer Ren, 7-1 Tibil Book, 12-1 Circle Nort,

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Australia Communication 1.000 tipe 🖷 t mar i priis

to Division to the

138.12 to Heydrick 3.00 today).

138.12 to Heydrick 3.00 today).

140.4 - Mirving RAPROW (C Parisin) 7-198.12 In Harcock 3.00 today).

190: 1: SELYER RAPROW (G Pariet) 7
19th; 2: Semigration 14.1: 3: Morocco

1.1 Flar; 4: Semigration 14.1: 3: Morocco

1.1 Flar; 4: Semigration 14.1: 15 ran. ½, rk.

1.4 Marconine, Semigration Total: 27.90.

1.5 SELSE 75: Floras: 27.02 83. Troi

1.5 SELSE 75: Floras: 27.02 83. Troi

1.5 SELSE 75: Floras: 27.02 83. Troi

1.5 SELSE 75: Floras: 5.102 83. Troi

1.5 SELSE 75: Floras: 5.1 for Harvey Winto.

1.5 SELSE 18.1 SELSE 17.0, 12.70, 12.80.

1.5 SELSE 18.1 SELSE 17.0, 12.70, 12.80.

1.5 SELSE 18.1 SELSE 17.0, 12.70, 12.80.

Players starting to see referees as paranoid policeme.

When football supporters take their places to watch their heroes strut desire to tip David Elleray, the current "headmaster", from his seat. their stuff, not many of them appreciate that it is not only the players who are out there competing.

On the face of it, referees cannot win. If they don't please all of the people all of the time, they'll get stick. If they do, the best they can hope for are genuine well-meant handshakes from players as they head for the dressing-rooms.

However, most of the referees need to win - or to be more accurate, they need to get good grades from the assessor and the two clubs competing on the day. One or two will be completing their last year "on the list". If they follow trends established over the last couple of seasons, like Sinatra, they'll go out whistling rather than singing My Way.

A minority of the referees will be trying to maintain their status among the game's élite. The majority will be trying to prove themelves worthy of promotion into this

There was a time when referees succeeded without seeming to try. They moved through the ranks developing a refereeing personality and style which worked despite what might now be seen as technical deficiencies. I'm sure the likes of Jim Finney, Jack Taylor, Neil Midgley and many others would have found the current quest to standardise their behaviour, judgement and responses difficult to come to terms with.

Since Fifa, the governing body of world football, introduced through Uefa, the European governing body, its mandatory instructions relative to certain sections of Law 12, there has been an explosion in red and yellow cards. It has to be said, the product is better for this clean-up. Cynicism and violence cannot be tol-

erated under any circumstances. But are the measures too Draconian? I think they are. I sense an almost religious fervour to clean elite. Mastering their trade is certainly a pursuit they all take very seriously, and some will harbour the the moment, I feel there's not comparison in standards. The offi-



Howard Wilkinson warns the men in the middle are moving apart and worries that good young officials

enough discrimination between what is ill-judged, careless and downright cynical or violent. Not enough importance is placed on trying to understand the motives of the player.

In the recent Arsenal and Sunderland game, Martin Scott deserved to go in my view, but did Paul Stewart? I am pleased to say that the referee concerned, Paul Danson, now agrees. That's a step in the right direction. Can such judge-ments ever be so black and white? A technical offence is not always intentional. It's one thing to know the laws, but to apply the laws effectively, you have to know the game.

that managers, players and may be lost to the game

> cial in charge was Helmut Krug, one of Germany's top men. In a game where some Premiership referces might have been tempted to pop their cork, Herr Krug kept his bottle and was never too obvious - subtle rather than up front - and as a result the game flowed freely.

Knowing the game is largely a matter of experience and these days the trend is lowards promoting even younger and therefore less experienced referees. In theory, the reasons are sound. The quicker you referee in the Premiership, the ear-lier you'll get on the Fifa list, which means being longer on that list. Mike Riley and Graham Barber, two very young and promising referees, were promoted to the Pre-

miership after a couple of years apiece in the Football League. After four games each this season, they had respectively 21 and 25 yellow cards to their credit. In addition, Rilev has two reds.

Riley refereed the Nottingham Forest-Middlesbrough game when nine players were booked and one sent off. This week Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, was fined £1,500, severely censured and warned to his future conduct following his outburst after this game.

John Kirkby from Sheffield, on the other hand, is a highly rated referee, but over 40 years old. His prospects for promotion to the Premiership could be significantly low-er than younger candidates. With the best will in the world, experience can only come given the time to referee the number of games necessary to come to terms with and understand the intricacies of the modern game.

Seven managers charged with disrepute is not good for the game, wherever the fault lies. Policemen guarding a referee's dress ng-room does not reflect well on "family entertainment".

Matches needlessly reduced to fewer than 11-a-side are not what the customer pays to see - and the customer

pays a lot these days.

There is a definite lack of communication, with players, managers and referees moving further apart rather than closer together. Managers and players need to be made last week!" fully aware of the huge pressure under which referees operate these days and the circumstances which create this pressure. At the moment, managers and players are starting to see the referees as some sort of bunch of paranoid policemen who assume every member of the public is a crim-

inal bent on breaking the law. situation during the six years I had in non-League football where, mark my words, the fortitude, determinating said a nation and commitment of referees was and is still tested to its limit. Even at that time, some referees had gone about as far as they could go. For others, it was a final step in a very long, archious ladder to their zemth, the old Football League.

Now and again we'd get one or

two of the big boys, who'd got a free weekend. Now, they could be interesting. Humour breaks down

I can still hear the dulcet tones now. "Come here, son, I'm having you. Don't worry, you're in good company. I booked Bobby Mog-

-- The stories became legends as you got to know them personally. "Are you bleeding blind, ref?" my big centre-half politely enquired. "See that llow thing up there, number five it's millions of miles away and called the sun. I can see it from here, so how far do you want me to see?

It would be a shame and a loss All of this seems a far cry from the if the standardisations currently sought removed that sort of banter

Having said all that, would I be a referee? Would I hell! I don't think that will worry the assembled ranks of the gentlemen in black. What should worry all of us, though, is the possibility that there are increasing numbers of young men out there who, because of the hassle, think exactly the same.

Ajax look lost in an alien setting

lan Ridley finds a strained welcome at the Amsterdam ArenA, where Rangers boldly go searching for a win tonight

t homes into view amid farmland and aside office blocks south-east of the city and for a moment you really think they might have landed. The new Amsterdam ArenA, host to Rangers in the Champions' League tonight, is indeed a futuristic mothership of a venue, but at the moment for Ajax. their opponents and occupants of this interplanetary craft. it is far from dome, sweet home.

This visitor vesterday began to feel like the increasingly frustrated Richard Drevfuss in Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Amid building workers still topping off (and popping off for a ciggie), security staff politely but firmly defied attempts to reach nerve centre - the 51,000-seat stadium itself and a view of the pitch. All enquiries were referred to offices on the fourth floor of a tower block 400 bleak and windswept yards away.

will be because they have taken so much criticism. Ajaz supporters, used to the intensity of the old 20,000-capacity De Meer, are having trouble adapting to the less atmospheric ArenA (probably spelt so because it offers neat opportunities for logo designers) while the team are struggling to perform on a pitch still bedding in. Like themselves, in fact.

For all that, the ArenA is a

tion, its most innovative feature a retractable roof - in 30 minutes, is the claim - that permits indoor concerts and the like. Car parking takes up the first two floors, with the pitch laid out on the third. Naturally, food outlets and other chances to spend money are copious.

That said, season ticket prices

are remarkably cheap, with a seat on the half-way line at about £250 for the year. With a lowest price of £100, it puts the Premiership to shame. Costing £70m, the stadium has taken three years to complete and access via motorways and trains is excellent. It is about 12 kilometres from the centre of Amsterdam and only 30 from Utrecht, but then everything in this delightfully open and manageable country seems to be about 30 kilometres from

The stadium was opened two nor shareholders though the regular attraction, losing 3-0 to Milan as a sign of things to come. In six competitive games since, the pitch has cut up too easily and turf is relaid almost daily.

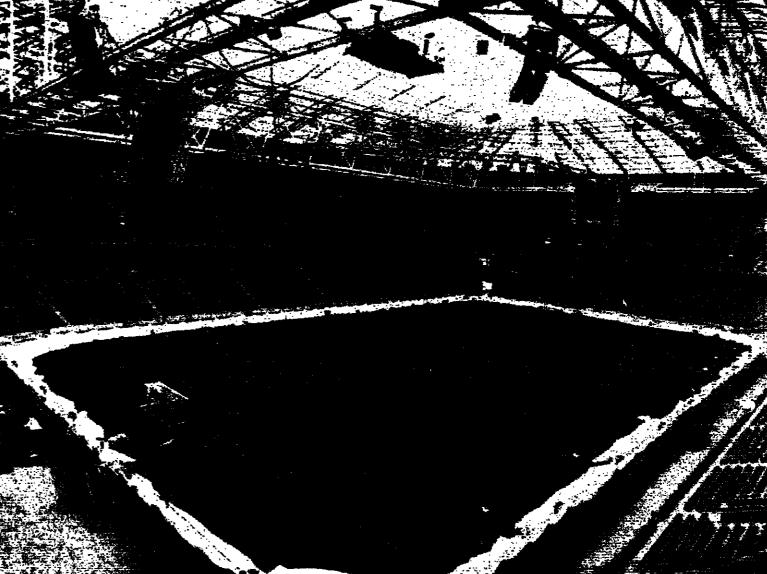
The biggest critic has been the Ajax coach, Louis van Gaal, whose passing team needs a level, rather than divot-pocked, playing surface. "Too soft undemeath," said the well known

"In the old place you could smell football everywhere you went. You can't here," said Van Gaal, who has announced his possibly related resignation from the club at the end of the season. And, from the outside yesterday, you knew what he

Actually, Ajax's more significant dilemmas have been more to do with the new problems presented by the Bosman ruling and the age-old one of injury. Last summer Finidi George, Nwankwo Kanu - now sadly out of the game with a heart problem - Edgar Davids and Michael Reiziger departed as the team which won the European Cup last year and was beaten by Juventus in this year's final drifted apart.

To those losses, add longterm injuries to Patrick Kluivert, Danny Blind and Peter Hoekstra and a shorter-term which prevents his appearance tonight, and the reasons for Ajax's fall from grace become apparent. They are an unheard of sixth

in the Dutch League, seven points behind the leaders Feyenoord after 10 games. In the Champions' League, a business as usual 1-0 win in Auxerre was followed by a 0-1 defeat in the ArenA by Grasshopper of Zurich, fast becoming this sea-



The 51,000-seated Amsterdam ArenA where Ajax play host to Rangers in the Champions' League tonight

side." says the Rangers man-ager, Walter Smith. "I don't think they are in turmoil as when the draw was made to find them in such disarray in what will be a make or break contest remarkable looking construc- Agronomist of Old Amsterdam. son's surprise packet. Kluiv- some are suggesting." Perhaps for the Scots.

ert's replacement, the Nigerian not, but his team, who have lost

ing, while in attack they are looking thin. Smith may pair the German Jorge Albertz with

Not that they themselves are Brian Landrup. Ally McCoist ting, yes, Jim, but is it football Tijani Babangida, has yet to score a goal.

They are still an impressive side," says the Rangers man
Tijani Babangida, has yet to both their matches to untroubled by injury. The most and Gordon Durie are tuled out worrying is the damaged hip of their goalkeeper Andy Goram, with Ajax, Peter Van Vossen, is when the draw was made to find which will be tested this morn
Total they intersected and Gordon Durie are fuled out as we know it? Responding to and the Dutchman formerly as well as always been part of their goalkeeper Andy Goram, with Ajax, Peter Van Vossen, is playing in Europe and whichever or side does so the better

The two teams will barely resemble what they might be and the same can be said of the set-

Photograph: Allsport tonight will be crucial. We hope to bring you an internal report

changes for the visit of George

Graham's Leeds side as he looks

to end a sequence without a win

stretching back to 4 September.

Little said: "You have to be concerned when you go seven

matches without a victory and

Little is that Gareth Southgate

is likely to have recovered from

the ankle injury he suffered while playing for England against Poland last Wednesday.

Middlesbrough's manager,

Bryan Robson, might have been

frustrated by his side's 2-2 draw

against 10-man Sunderland on

Monday, but he took consola-

tion from Fabrizio Ravanelli breaking his goal drought away

from the Riverside Stadium.

reason why he can't ca'y on scoring, "Robson said order Italian, who has scored 11 times this

season. "It's nice that he's get

off the mark in an away gails.

"He's so single-minded about

One piece of good news for

there will be changes."

Antic primed to atone for past

Struggling Milan seek respite

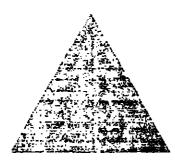
each in a 6-0 away victory at the squad, Massimo Ambrosi-Trelleborg, which keeps Goth-m, 19, and Tomas Locatelli, 20,

ions' League. However, they alongside Demetrio Albertini have had a miserable time this and Zvonimir Boban.

first game in over six weeks on a cup match. I don't know what



Peace, love, flowers.



Beer.



Madrid coach, will be hoping to banish the memory of one of the most painful episodes in the club's history when his side meet Borussia Dortmund in tonight's Champions' League fixture.

ning the European Cup final in 1974, the last time they met a German side in the premier competition. But Bayern Munich scored a late equaliser, and Franz Beckenbauer's side went on to win the replay 4-0.
It was a heavy blow for Atletico, who have struggled to escape

Atletico came close to win-

Real, the winners of a record six European Cups. Antic, himself a former Real coach, guided Atletico to their first domestic league and cup double last season. Few Spaniards would be surprised

Milan, who have been plagued

by poor form and injuries so far

this season, will be hoping for

another successful trip to Scandinavia when they play Gothen-

burg in the European Champions' League today.
Milan beat Rosenborg 4-1 in

Norway last month, with Marco

Simone scoring a hat-trick in

Trondheim and George Weah

Simone missed the 3-0 defeat

at Roma in Serie A on Saturday

with an injury, but he returns to

partner Weah in attack as Milan

look for a second victory in

Gothenburg confirmed their

domination of Swedish football

at the weekend by winning

their fourth successive league

title with two matches to spare.

Andreas Andersson and Stefan

Pettersson scored two goals

getting the other goal.

Group D.

the shadow of their neighbours,

Raddy Antic, the Atletico team all the way to the final after a fine Champions' League debut in Group B. Atletico have the best record of any side in the competition after beating the former champions Steaua Bucharest 4-0 and winning 4-1 at Poland's Widzew

> However, Borussia Dortmund have also beaten both Steaua and Widzew and will provide the toughest opposition in the group for Atletico.

Injury deprives Dortmund of their influential sweeper, Matthias Sammer, the midfielder Andreas Möller and defender Rene Schneider, all Germany internationals. But the Brazilian defender Julio Cesar is recovering from a mus-cle injury and is likely to play. Dortmund beat Duisburg 2-0 in the Bundesliga last Saturday

but they are not performing well

enharg in next season's Champ-

season, losing to Rosenborg

Tabarez, has been forced to make sweeping changes to his leam. Edgar Davids, Dejan

Savicevic and Stefano Eranio

Franco Baresi, who played his

Saturday, is expected to play against Gothenburg despite be-

ing less than 100 per cent fit. To

provide extra cover for Baresi,

Tabarez may move Marcel De-

sailly back to central defence in

place of the out-of-form

Two younger members of

Alessandro Costacurta.

are all injured and Pietro Vier-

chowod is cup-tied.

Milan's coach, Oscar

and Porto.

as favourites but we don't want to lose there either," the coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, said. "We have to live with lots of injuries but it gives the replacements a chance to force their way in."

Dortmund may draw strength from the past, having beaten Atletico in the quarterfinals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup on their way to winning the trophy in the 1965/66 season. Atletico's fine European form

has contrasted with some poor performances at home. The Madrid club are already six points adrift of the leaders, Barcelona, after seven league games, largely thanks to the absence of the injured Jose Luis Caminero, who misses the Borussia match with a muscle

are expected to play in midfield

Boban, who was suspended

on Saturday, said he hoped the

defeat would sour the side on.

"It [the defeat by Roma] wasn't

nice to look at, not at all," he

Boban's sentiments were

shared by Costacurta, who said:

Thank goodness we now have

exactly is happening at the mo-

ment. We're conceding goals

that, if not inexplicable, are at

least WOTTying."
Gothenburg (probable): Ravell: Johansson, Luck, Nisson, Landberg, Martireson, Mid. E-

lingmark, Blomquest, Patterson, Andersson. Millen (probable): Rosel; Panucci, Maldini, De-

said. We had better show some

character and react."

To make matters worse even

"We're not going to Madrid bian pulled up in training on Sunday after aggravating an Achilles tendon injury which had lingered on from his time as a player and he will have to curb his animated touchline sorties.

However, Antic will be cheered by the reappearance of the striker Kiko Narvaez, who sat out Saturday's 2-2 draw with Real Betis, "It's an important game, which could open the way to the quarter-finals," Kiko said.

The match should fill Atletico's Vicente Calderon stadium for the first time this season. The capacity has been reduced by 6,000 to just under 50,000, because of engineering works.

Athidico Madrid (probable v Bossaska Dort-nsund, Etitopean Cup Champions' Lengue, Madrid, tomight) Motrar, Derke, Solozabul, Munoz, Gel, Solozabul, Bejti, Simeone, Pan-tic; Nanzez, Esnaider. Borussia Dortmund (probable) Klos: Felersinger, Kohler, Julio Casar, Rauter, Lambert, Zore, Tretschok, Heinrich; Ricken,

Paris St-Germain, the hold-

ers, will be without Leonardo for the away leg against Galatasaray in the second round of the European Cup-

Leonardo, whose seven goals

and incisive midfield play have

helped PSG establish a seven-

point lead in the French First

Division, has been called up by

Mario Zagalio to play in Brazil's friendly at home to Lithuania.

His team-mate Vincent

Guerin said: "We'll surely miss

him. But we have enough good players to manage without him."

PSG's manager, Ricardo, a fellow Brazilian, said: "His ab-

sence is serious but I have a good

squad and I'm not worried."

Winners' Cup tomorrow.

Leeds crowd in the past," Evans said. "He was sent off there for wasting time and winding

> "As long as he learns from the White Hart Lane experience, it's OK. We believe he made a pennine mistake and I am surc

> the manager, Brian Little, in-

but I don't think it was preying on his mind that he hadn't

Irakli Zoidze, made several

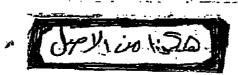
crucial saves to delight the

Neptun Bajko resigned as

Tbilisi take a narrow lead

Georgia.
Thilisi were on top throughout the first half without making their superiority count. The breakthrough came when their defender Gocha Jamaruli raced forward and was pulled down by . a Boavista defender to give Gogichaishvili his opportunity.

coach of the Albanian national team yesterday in the wake of last week's 3-0 home defeat by Portugal in a World Cup qualifier. Bajko, who had coached the team since August 1994, said he quit because his players had refused to follow his tactics in the Group Nine match in Tirana last Wednesde. The Albanian FA said it backot yet appointed a replacement but denied reports that a foreign



Apologetic Bosnich 'must grow up' 餐 apologised for the salute, describing it as a joke, is sure to be selected but Little will make

Aston Villa's assistant manager, Alian Evans, suggested yes-terday that the club's goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, has no problems that maturity would not cure.

Bosnich is on a Football Association charge after his "joke" Nazi-style salute to Tottenham fans on Saturday after Spurs supporters had taunted him over his collision with Jürgen Klinsmann two seasons ago.

This Saturday, his sense of humour will no doubt be tested again during the visit to Villa Park of Leeds, whose fans will recall his dismissal late in a Premiership game at Elland Road 18 months ago, when Villa went on "He's had problems with the

people up. He's been in the wrong a few times and he must start to grow up.

tends to pick him for Saturday." on his mind that he his Bosnich, who has profusely scored away from home."

50,000 crowd.

Kakhi Gogichaishvili scored from a penalty in the 28th minute to give Dynamo Tbilisi a 1-0 victory over Boavista in their second-round, first leg Uefa Cup game yesterday in

The Portuguese came into

Laurent Fournier will probably move into Leonardo's atthe match more in the second tacking midfield role, with Jose half, but Toilisi's goalkeeper, coach was being sought. Cobos coming into the defence.

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Harford pinning hopes on Le Saux

Football

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Later

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Ray Harford, the Blackburn Rovers manager, looks ready to take a gamble on Graeme Le Saux's fitness as he calls all hands to the pump in an attempt to stave off the sack

Harford has arranged a private game with Tranmere today to give the England left-back a run-out in the hope that he will be able to play for the Premiership's bottom club at Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday. Queen's Park Rangers players

have indicated they will boycott their Sky TV match against Crystal Palace on 10 November should a strike be called this week The Professional Footballers' Association are in dispute with the Football League, claiming they are entitled to 10 per cent

of TV revenue. Players have un-

til today to return their ballot

forms and an announcement will be made on Saturday. The Nottingham Forest manager, Frank Clark, has been assured his job will be safe if the millionaire television and video tycoon, Grant Bovey, wins control at the City Ground, Bovey has made a near £30m takeover bid with a "substantial amount"

for team strengthening.
Fulham have turned down an approach from Brighton to ground share at Craven Cottage next season. Brighton's chief ex-ecutive, David Bellotti, sounded out Fulham after supporters mentioned five London clubs as an atternative to Portsmouth's Fratton Park at a meeting in July, but Fulliam said that an agreement with the local coun-

cil prevented ground-sharing. A former referee, John Lloyd, claimed Premiership officials this season "do as they're told" for fear of losing their positions. Lloyd, who refereed in the

Premier and football leagues and was also an international official before retiring at the endof last season, also criticised League assessors, saying: "Assessors are often people with no experience of refereeing at the highest level. I refereein Chelsea and Tottenham in the 1998-94 season and was assessed by 3.76-year-old who had been a line summ.

for two seasons 30 years ago." Paranoid policemen, page 26

Larder has **Test limits** underlined

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

reports from Wellington New Zealand XIII Great Britain

Great Britain will go into the first Test against the Kiwis in Auckland on Friday without the confidence boost of a win so far in New Zealand. Defeat by a purposeful side drawn from the strata below Test level makes it one draw and one loss since arriving here for the most important stage of the tour. Few if any of the side that lost

here last night will be involved in the Test, so the direct relevance of the result is limited, but it is another reminder that the Great Britain coach, Phil Larder, has little room for manocuvre in his team selection.

Lacking in Test potential as they were, the British second string could still have won this match, if they had taken their chances in the first half at Fraser Park, to which the match was switched this week without anybody apparently being told. Chris Joynt and Steve Prescott

both put down passes with the line open and those omissions cost the tourists dear in the final reckoning. They had fallen behind early in the match when Tony

Tatupu got his pass away to the former Featherstone, Sheffield and Oldham winger, Iva Ropati, but took the lead when Barrie-Jon Mather's clever inside ball released Joey Hayes. Tatupu figured again in the

New Zealanders' second try from Hitro Okesene and Britain had spurned the first of their inviting opportunities before Whetu Tacwa put the locals further ahead.

tend the Kiwi lead after the break, although Tony Smith brought the tourists back to within two points.

Smith, however, conceded a penalty by holding down Oke-sene to give David Murray two points and the final stages of the match belonged to Shane Endacott, the son of the Kiwi coach, Frank Endacott's two late tries were separated by one from Hammond, whose performance, despite having to move to centre for part of the game, was one of the British bright spots. That gave a brief glimpse of a snatched victory, but that

prospect proved to be an illusion. Endacott Sur could have picked any one of the local side's back three to complete his squad for Friday's Test. After due consideration he took the loose forward Logan Swann with him on the plane back to Anckland to prepare for that encounter. For his opposite number,

Larder, the choices are less alluring. Joynt came through safely in his first match after recovering from a recurrence of his kneed injury, but could still be a shade shy of Test match condition, while Terry O'Connor and Hammond had games that could get them as far as the bench in Auckland. That's where the Great

Britain Test team is already sitting," said Endacott - and he will be correct on that score. will be correct on that score.

New ZEALAND XIR: Murray, Ropet, A.
Seern, Taewa, Stevent Endecot, Whitzeler, Matam, Johnston, Olessons, Tunpu, Herare, I. Searn, Sabettuber, Nooveo, Furmina, Seu Seu, Avery,
REMAT BERTAIN: Prescott: Hayes, Matter, Senior, Chichley, Tollett, Smith, Harmon, Loues,
O'Cornor, Bradlery, Joynt, Harmon, Loues,
O'Cornor, Bradlery, Joynt, Harmon, Sebstitutes: Roper, Philips, Dwyer, Cassidy,
Referee: D Hale (Auction).

Central Districts Colts added

to a bad day for touring British sides when they beat Great Britain Academy 38-30. The coach. John Kear, later comcase, John Kear, later comments the end of a good back line had fielded over age players. "I move any simple second back line had fielded over age players. "I distribute the law gone over again when he chose instead to pass to Prescott.

The Swann cousins, Logan and Anthony, combined to extend that's not on?"



تعكدا من الأصل

World Cup switch proposed

Super League officials are considering switching next year's World Cup from Britain to Australia, writes Dave Hadfield The New Zealand Rugby League president and World Su-

рет League vice-chairman Graham Carden is giving the proposed change his backing.

Carden said: It would be great for the whole Super. League movement to bring the event Down Under and show everyone what we've got."

and Hunslet manager, Steve Ferres, as their new coach. The 42-year-old Fer-

res, who won two chambionship win-

ners' medals with Bradford Northern, succeeds Australian Darryl Van de Velde, who left Huddersfield two months

ago after just 12 months in charge.

ago atter just 12 morturs in cristige.
TOOR MATCHES: New Zeedand 201 (1.4) 30,
Great Britain (1.0) 22. New Zeeland: Tries Endacott 2. Olesseni, Rapets, Swarn, Tasse;
Roals: Navay 2, Whitting: Great Britain: Tries;
Hammond, Hayes, Mather, Smith; Goals
Prescott 3. (2,000, at Wellington)
Central District Colts 38 Gt Britain Academy 30 Gt Britain Academy actness: Tifes;
Muno, Phys. Bruschert, Watson, Newton, Anderson; Goals Watson (3).

Rugby Union

Carden said the idea would be discussed when the World Super League board meets in Auckland later this week. Super League, which governs the sport in all major rugby league nations except Australia and is backed by media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, will launch a breakaway 10team competition in Australesia pext season in opposition to the Australian Rugby League. St Helens are favourites to sign

Britain in the first Test on Friday. Blackmore is keen to return to Britain, where he was a great success with Castleford, and Saints' coach. Shaun McRae, has spoken to him about joining the European Super League champions for next season. "I haven't signed anything yet, but I enjoyed playing for Shann when he was New Zealand's assistant coach during the World Cup last year," Blackthe New Zealand centre Richie

Ulster are in a shocking mood

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT

Dick Best, the Harlequins coach, expects his side to experience a culture shock of severe proportions when they dip their finely chiselled toes in the icy waters of European rugby in Belfast tonight. Not that much of a shock, surely; every side in Britain relishes a shot at the city slickers from Twickenham and Ulster are no different. Victory for the Irishmen at

Ravenhill would go a long way towards securing a coveted place in the last eight of the Heineken Cap. They outlasted the Scottish North and Midlands, otherwise known as Caledonia, last weekend and in a pool phase of four games, another win would leave them handily placed to progress.
But for all the hard edges that
Ulster traditionally bring to

their game - qualities that Tony Russ, the former Leicester coach, will only seek to enhance - Harlequins go in as clear favourites after a thoroughly persuasive start to the season. Six Courage league victories off the reel have left them perched on top of the domestic heap and with their league recruits, Gary Connolly and Robbie Paul, beginning to find their feet, the Londoners are the form contenders for Continental glory.

in midfield once again tonight, serious questions and Hemi their partnership allowing Will Taylor's side face an even suffer Carling another flirtation with the stand-off duties he so clear- weekend

ly covets. The former England captain may look like a centre with ideas above his station, but Ulster are likely to find the combination of all three playmakers too hot to handle.

Leicester are the other English big guns who begin their campaign tonight and by coincidence, they must also cross the Irish Sea. The Tigers face Leinster in Dublin and even though their most experienced international players, Dean Richards and Rory Underwood, are injured, they will expect to take the points from a side beaten by Llanelli in the opening round of matches,

Their confidence is such that they feel able to rest John Liley, their goalkicking full-back, and replace him with the former Huddersfield League professional, Greg Austin. There is a change at scrum-half, two, where Aadel Kardooni comes in for Austin Healey. The teenager Leon Lloyd gets a run on the left wing in place of Underwood. Elsewhere, the Pool D

"Group of Death" sees Toulouse, the reigning champions, making their first appearance in Milan and Cardiff, last season's runners-up, squaring up to Mupster at the Arms Park The Welshmen remain cautious about their quarter-final pected victory over Wasps on Sunday, Munsier, who also won Connolly and Paul team up at the weekend, will ask some examination in Toulouse at the

Wales to stay home Welsh venue was considered big

Welsh rugby supporters will not have to commit the gross heresy of singing Land Of My Fathers at Wembley Stadium this season after all, writes Chris Hewett. The Five Nations match between Wales and England on 15 March will go ahead at the National Stadium in Cardiff, albeit with a reduced capacity of 44,000 due to extensive rebuilding work.

Welsh Rugby Union officials had resigned themselves to holding their most prized home fixture at an English venue, because the National Stadium's west stand is scheduled to be demolished in February as part of the Arms Park Millennium Stadium project for the 1999 World Cup. No other until building work is complete.

enough to host the match. Yesterday, however, the ground steering committee announced that sufficient seating would be retained to allow the

game to go ahead as planned. Not surprisingly, the news was the Welsh coaching director, who said: "This is something that the national squad fervently hoped for. There is nothing quite like the atmosphere of a Wales-England game in Cardiff." Sadly for Cobner, it is likely

that Wales will have to move lock, stock and barrel to an English ground for the 1998 Five Nations. The National Stadium will close completely from May

American Football Scottish Ciaymores, the World Bowl champions, will begin the defence of their title away to Amsterdam Admirals in the first World League game on Saturday 12 April next year. Claymores will be in London for the first all-Bridsh match an 11 May, with the return at Murray-Tield on 8 June.

Allsport

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NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: St Louis O Atlanta 14 (St Louis lead best-of-ser-

Cricket Glamorgan are set to announce major new ground developments at their apphia Gardens headquarters in Cardiff. The county, who recently signed the top Polistian first bowler Waqar Youris on a sx-figure contract, will unveil the plans during an official announcement next

Werwickshire's head groundsman Steve Rouse has been offered a three-month appointment at South Africa's Newlands fest venue in Cape Town, Wanvickshire are unlikely to object as he would be back in time to prepare Edgbaston for next summer's first lest match between England and Australia. UNDER-20 WORLD CUP SERIES (Berg-stalator, Gar): 1 P Or (ss); 2 T Frank (Gar-many); 3 = F Reichlang (Gar); O Grinard (Bel); 5 S Johnson (GE).

Football Sunderland have signed 19-year-old Dar-ren Williams from York for an Initial fee of £50,000 plus appearance pay-

WOMEN'S WORLD RANKINGS PING IEADERSOARD Leading positions: 1 1Davies (Fig) 438.27 pts; 2 A Sormstam (Swe) 366.17; 3 K Webb (Aus) 278.82; 4 L Neumann (Swe) 276.12; 5 D Pepper (US) 200.90; 6 M McGann (US) 211.21; 7 K Robins (US) 209.24; 8 M Malton (US) 206.42; 9 J Geodes (US) 157.26; 10 H Aimedison (Swe) 145.60; 11 V Sormer (US) 141.02; 12 A Nicholes (Eng) 138.33.

Ice hockey

Olympics
The Iranian Olympic Committee vicepresident, Faezeh Hashemi, urged the
international Olympic Committee on
Tuesday to support Muslim women. "As
the progressive trend of Olympism

Motor racing

FA Carling Premierable

Playing Sunday: Liverpool v Everion; New-castle v Manchester Utd. Nationwide Football League First Division

Badlod v Barnsley
Charten v Bolton
Costal Palace v Swandon
Z Gimsby v West Bromwich
S Haddersfield v Southend 15 Agenchester City v Norman 15 Agenchester City v Norman 15 Outreen v Reading 17 Stoke v Sheffield Uid 18 Wolverhampton v Port Vale

Second Division 19. Brentford v Walsell
20 Bristol Rosers v Blackpool (all ticket)
21 Burdey v Notis County
22 Bury v Watlord
23 Chemister v Crewe

Third Division

> HOW CAN I MAKE the most of my savings and investments? TURN TO INDEPENDENT TABLOID PAGE 13

NHL: Vancouver 4 Boston 5 joro; NY Rangers. 5 Calgary 4; Phoenix 3 Edmonton 6.

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

1 Anshall v Coverny
2 Asian Visa v Leeds
3 Cheisee v Wimbledon
5 Notingham Forest v Derby
6 Sheffield Wed v Blackburn
7 Southsmotion v Sunderland
8 West Hern v Leicester

**Sweetser Liverpool v Exception
**Leichter

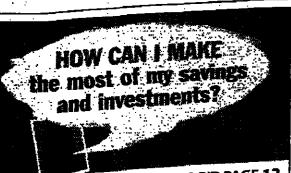
**Sweetser Liverpool v Exception
**Leichter

**Leichte Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

40 Durdermine v Dundee Utd ... 41 Nimernock v Rakh ... 42 Nimernock v Hibernian 43 Rangers v Aberdeen 44 Arrone v Stirling 45 Clydebank v Greenock Morton ...

Second Division Also playing (not on compone): Brechin v Stenhousemair, Hamilton v Ayr; Queen of the South v Livingston; Stranzaer v Dumberton. Third Division

a HILFS: MAY Exercise
Also playing (not on coupons): Allos v Mon-trose; Courismbests v Inverness Catedonian Thistic; East Stirling v Queen's Paric Forlar v Alborr, Ross Courny v Arbrueth. POUR DRAWS: Middlesbrough v Tottenham Menchester City v Novulch, Busy v Wattor nester City v Norulch, rmline v Dundee Utd. FIVE AWAYS: Barnsley, Shin port, Leyton Onerst, Hibernies TEN HOMES: Arsenal, Staffield Wadnes Crystal Palace, Huddersfield, Brenderd, N nam, Cambridge Utd, Dondaster, Rangess,



goes on, 500 million Muslim women are ignored because they maintain the moralities as stated in their holy religon Islamm," Hashemi, deughter of the Islaman president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, told the World Conference on Women

Derek Warwick, the former Formula One driver, has formed a new super team to contest next year's Auto Trad-

team to contest next year's Auto Trader RAC Towing Car Championship. Warwick has Joined forces with lan Hartson, in a three-year deel. For the last two years Harrison has been in change of the front-numing Wrilliams-Renaut roging car team. The new venture, called Triple Eight Race Engineering, will be responsible for numing Vaudhalf's two factory-backed Vectras, "Vaudhalf has offered a unique opportunity to enable me to formulate a team by bringing together the best people in the business," Warwick said. "I believe this is the right philosophy for success, and something I have been desperately keen to do. Vaudhalf's commitment to me doesn't mean that the finished diriving though. I am quick enough to win races, and i am quick enough to win races, and would still love to drive touring cars.

SAN REMO RALLY Leading positions after the second days 1.0 McRes (SS Subput largess 2th 21µm 328cc; 2 C Sare (Sp) Food Secont Cosworth +21sec; 3 P Hent (f) Subsut Impress 30; 4 K Erinson (Sws) Subsut Impress +41; 5 B Thity (Bel) Ford Escont Cosworth +44; 5 D Auriol (F) Missubsit Lancer +1µm 13sec; 7 G Pannezoto (f) Toyalo Celon 614 +111; 8 F Cunico (f) Ford Escont Cosworth +1332; 9 F John (Se) Toyalo Celon 614 +210; 10 A Medeghim (f) Subsut Impreza +2:49:

Rugby League Huddersfield, the First Division side, have appointed the former Sheffield Eagles

log Madrid v Boreşala Doriz

explanation of the control of the co

ICES LEAGUE Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Aylochus.

JERBORD LEAGUE Premier Division: Accurgon Stanley v Leek Vinstord v Gansborough. Piest Divisions Doylodon v Wahrington.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Sollows v Chelharbam (7.45); Stringbourne v Hostings (7.45). Middend Divisione Pagar v Dudley; VS Rugby v Schrud. Southern Division: Bastoy v Foreirance; Founds Groen Resear v Townskigs (7.45); Yate v Weykouth.

FEDERSONOR BREMERY WORTHERN LEAGUE.

FIRST Division: Consent v South Shields; Dunston v Bittingham Synthomic Duckmen City v Wassianer, Nature City v Wassianer, Harrow City v Wassianer, Harrow City Cooks Southern City v Wassianer.

Shorkson. BEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Challenge Cup

TENNIT

ce (7,45)

Football

England and Australia continued to com-mend attention in the qualifying rounds of the Penter Women's World team squash championship in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia yesterday, but did not have everything their own way, in Pool 8 Eng-land defeated the Netherlands, Ironi-cally coached by Jonah Barrington, the cally coached by Jonah Barrington, the president of the English Squash Reckpresident of the English Squash Reck-ets Association, but not before Norfolk's

TODAY'S FIXTURES

GREAT MILLS LEAGUS Promier Divisions Bacterell v Mangotsfield; Bridport v Odd Down; Brisingom v Cahr. Bridgue Premier Divisions Bushom RASTBOM LEAGUE Premier Divisions Sushuy Town v Welton (7.45); Sushuy Wen-denes v Borleston (7.45); League Cap first rounds Downthern v Great Yamphuth (7.45); Ip-swich Wendeses v Nacchum Merket (7.45); Ip-swich Wendeses v Nacchum Merket (7.45); Ip-SPESS & JOURNAL LEAGUE NIGHTAMD

PRESS & JOURNAL LEAGUE MIGHLAND LEAGUE Bigh City v Developatie Forms Me-chanics v Bross Rengians Frageringh v Cow Rangess, Naim County v Fort Williams, Peterhaso v Keith.

WELSP CUP Second round replays: Rhydrogyn y Volyach; Liendrodod Wella v Welspport Lanell v Ireturus.

PONTHES LERGUE Premier Division: Dorby v
Shafield Wed (7.0), Flost Orfsilos: Covering to
Backpool (7.0); Maddatorugh v Shefield Un
(7.0); Norge County v Preston (7.0), Second Drivision: Hol v Societor (7.0); Shreeway v York
(7.0), Third Division: Chestrical v Chester (7.4),
AVON BESURANCE COMERNATION LEAGUE
CUP'S Surressa v Bristo Chy (2.0); Wmiyledon
v Porsamoth (2.0).

Regby League

Rugby Union PRESENT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

ian v Toulouse.

BURDPHISE CONFERENCE Poet A: Agen v Comont-Found (6.30), Gasgou v Sole (at Hughsriden, 5.30) Nesport v Nestozige (7.0). Poet
is Bidgend v Belsti (7.15), Castes v Dinamo
Buchwest (8.0), Teoschy v Netborno (7.15).
Poet C Davant v Consent (7.45), Anthenoton v Osal, Toulou v Padou (8.0), Poet De Ebby
vide v Senesse (7.0), Gouceater v Beglesm,
London Intel v Sourgen. Other Sports MASNETHALL: Surpeen Cup: London Towers Marr-(comend Flung). SNOONER: Grand Pox (Bournescout).

Cassie Jackman, last weekend's world open finalist, found herself in trouble against Vanessa Atkinson, the world No 39. Jackman led 1-0 and 6-0 in the 39. Jackman led 1-0 and 6-0 in the second game but then seemed to lose her concentration, struggling home in that game but losing the next two on tie-breaks. But she gathered her com-posure in time to take the fifth game and win 9-4, 9-6, 8-10, 9-2 in 59 min-

and win 9-4, 9-6, 8-10, 9-2 in 59 minutes – the longest nubber of the day.
PERMIER WOMEN'S WORLD TEAM CHAMPONSHIP (Petaling Jaya, Maisysia) Second
qualifying round: Pool A: Australia 3 South
Africa C. Germany 3 USA 0. Pool B: England
2 The Netherlands 0 (C lacium) bt V Ation
on) 9-4 8-8 8-10 8-10 9-2 S Honer it D
Sommers 9-2 9-1 9-4; F Geores b D Jayerna 9-1 9-0 9-1, New Zesthand 3 Egynt 0.
Pool C: Instand 3 Risapysia 0 (A Machile bt
Leong Su Lynn 9-49-29-8, L Finnegan bt Run
noby Ln 9-3 9-7, 10-8, O Franch bt C Yea 59 10-9 9-3 9-3), Finland 2 Canada 1, Pool
D: Sootbood 3 Jispan 0 (S Mecke bt y Kimpna 9-0 9-1 9-1, C Waddell bt M Adach 9-3 919-1, W Maistand bt M Sugs 9-0 9-3 9-6,
Franca 2 Hong Kong 1, Pool E: Description
2 Ricci 1, Spain 3, Traly 0,

Rugby Union
Centre Martin Ridge, who is in the Leinster teem for comorow's Heineken European Cup match against Leicester at
Lansdowne Road, has joined the exodus of hish maiert. Ridge is to leave the
Old Belvedere club in Dublin to join
Moseley, who stready have his Leinster
coileague, the former Old Wesley loose
head prop Henry Hurley, in their squad.
Ridge, who has won two freland A caps
and was on Ireland's tours to New
Zeeland in 1992 and Australia in
1994, has signed a three-year contract
with Moseley with a get-out clause op-

SPOSTING DIGEST

The sport's international governing body, Fina, have given a Hungarian association official a two-year ban in a scandal over a "phantom" meeting. A Fina statement said the association's scoretary-general, Josef Ruze, "has been suspended for two years from any International activity." The move follows allessitions lest morth that years from any international activity. The move follows allegations lest month that half the team from Hungary went to the Atlanta Olympics based on a qualifying competition that never took place. Issues Gyarias, president of the Hungarian association who resigned over the affair but was later re-elected, has denounced the fauld as an "inadmissible, giave missible". Ruza last month took full responsibility for the affair, in which "results" from a futificus contrest from 6 to 8 June were for the anax, in which "essurs" from were forwarded to Fina. But he insisted that the final was international practice and that that was aware of what had happened before the Olympics. Fina deciled

Britain's new women's No.1. Sem Smith, heads the British entry for the Texaco Ladies Chellenger which starts in Cardiff today. The eighth seed from Essex, who faces Sofia Prazeres from Portugal in the first round, will be looking to use the Cardiff event to further her bid to climb into the world ton 100. Orders. climb into the world top 100. Oxford-shire's Cleire Taylor was one of three British women to qualify yesterday, bringing the home representation in the mai

ING UP TATHE PREPENSION AT THE PROBLEM OF THE PROBL

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of kisses given to a female referee by Alessandro Veronese of Italian non-League side Battaglia, after she had sent him off for a secand bookable offence. The striker first shook Anna Di Toni by the hand, then kissed her twice before leaving the field.

Doyle steps up attack on ruling body

Stephen Hendry begins the de-fence of his Grand Prix title in Bournemouth today with his manager Ian Dovle, continuing his war of words against the sport's governing body. Doyle has become increas-

ingly agitated by the way the circuit is being run by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, He claims that the way forward is to dilute the power of WPBSA directors and put a "proper management structure in place". "I have said it until I am blue in the face. A management set-

sional Golfers' Association is absolutely essential," said Doyle, who is in charge of the Team GDZ Capital stable which includes Ken Doherty, Nigel Bond and Dennis Taylor. Snooker players sitting on the board do not have the experience of running an industry in the main. They must accept the game is now an industry and, accordingly, requires professional people to

up such as that of the Profes-

oversee its development and day-to-day organisation.' The Grand Prix will be the first event covered by the BBC under a new £40m, five-year contract signed earlier this year. But, like the UK championship, it has failed to attract a sponsor. The £330,000 prize fund will be paid by the WPBSA.

One particular target for Dovle is the WPBSA chairman and three-times world champion John Spencer, who is up for re-election as a director in December. Doyle said: "I'm afraid that the chairman has got to move over. He has lost his grip, but, more importantly, he fails to recognise that changes have to be made. A number of administrative

blunders, what Doyle considers to be a lack of forward planning and a heavily criticised world ranking system are other areas of contention as the Grand Prix gets underway. While the arguments con-

tinue, Hendry will be concentrating on capturing a title he won for the first time as an 18year-old in 1987. His recent form has been indifferent, and he faces a dangerous first-round opponent in the highly rated teenager Matthew Stevens.

Allenby has to tee off

Robert Allenby, injured in a recent car crash, is prepared to play just one shot in a tournament next week before withdrawing to protect his ranking on the European Tour money list, his coach has confirmed.

The Anstralian golfer, who lies third on the list, is recovering from a fractured sternum and cannot swing a club properly. He must, however, compete in the Volvo Masters in Valderrama, Spain, starting on 24 October, to retain his current place on the money list and earn year's US Masters. "The difficult thing for him is to do it with some sort of dignity," said his coach, Steve Bann. "He feels awkward and embarrassed about it. We don't

a possible invitation to next

want to make it a circus act.' Allenby will earn a £73,000 bonus if he finishes third on the money list but the cash will only be added to his aggregate earnings for the season if he tees off Valderrama.

If the bonus is not included. Allenby would almost certainly drop a place on the money list as a result.

Sainz's gamble closes gap

Colin McRae, in a Subaru, retained his lead in the San Remo

rally, despite Carlos Sainz's mble on the weather cutting his advantage to 21 seconds. Sainz dropped to eighth place on Monday night after de-

liberately checking in a minute late at the final control to incur a 10-second penalty. The Ford driver gambled that he would have better road conditions by starting later yesterday, and al though there was some rain his decision paid off and he climbed to second place.

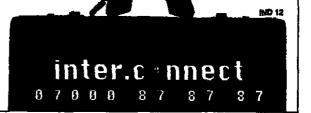
Piero Liatti, in another Sub aru, dropped to third, unable to match the pace of the leaders. and Didier Auriol lost fourth place when his Mitsubishi suffered a transmission problem. Andrea Dallavilla dropped

out of contention when he overturned his Toyota twice and lost son's Subaru overtook Bruno Thiry and moved into fourth when Thiry's Ford suffered electrical problems.

The rally will probably be decided on the mountain roads close to San Remo today, especially if the weather gets worse.

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'But are the measures too Draconian? I think they are. I sense an almost religious fervour to clean things up, almost to sanitise the game. Are things really that bad?' Howard Wilkinson on the refereeing revolution

Sport is Murdoch's 'battering ram' for pay TV

ROBERT MILLIKEN reports from Sydney

Rupert Murdoch vesterday signalled his plan to take an even more aggressive approach to-wards buying television rights for leading sports when he an-nounced that he intended to use sport as a "battering ram" for the expansion of his global pay

television network. He told the annual meeting in Adelaide of News Corporation, of which he is chairman and chief executive: "Sport absolutely overpowers film and everything else in the enter-

"Footbail, of all sports, is number one. Look at what we have done in Britain with our Premier League soccer, and now with the rugby union and rugby league in the United Kingdom as well. We expect the next three World Cups will have a significant place on our platforms. Sport will remain very important and we will be investing in and acquiring long-term rights."

Murdoch was speaking with the assurance of someone whose risk-taking has proved that sports, along with big Hollywood movies, are the two biggest money spinners under-writing his pay television ven-

of Premier League has been crucial in turning BSkyB into one of News Corporation's most booming businesses (a fact underlined when BSkyB United States in partnership shares rose 18p to 676.5p yes-terday, increasing its stock mar-ket value £309m to £11.64bn).

In the United States, he has a lucrative contract with the National Football League, showing many of the best American football games on Fox Television, his free-to-air network. "Fox has been very much involved, or will be involved in the next week, in the finals of the World Baseball Series, for which we expect great ratings," he said vesterday.

with MCI Communications, the giant telecommunications com-

pany. American Sky will have

more than 200 channels and will

be launched late next year. The Murdoch obsession with sport extends to Asia as well, where his Star satellite network stretches from China to India. "[There is] one development which is very pleasing is our sports programming in India, which was beginning to get very expensive," Murdoch said. "We have now formed a partnership the United States.

We have the long-term rights in most countries to major sporting events and we will be doing in Asia what we intend to do elsewhere in the world, that is, use sports as a 'battering ram' and a lead offering in all our pay

television operations."

It was in Australia where Murdoch's battering ram al-most ended as a pile of splinters in his launch of Foxtel, his pay television venture there which News Corporation runs in partnership with Telstra, the stateowned telecommunications company. Absolutely crucial to Foxtel's success was Murdoch's attempt to wrench control of rug-

gramming competitor, ESPN of by league, one of the most pop-the United States. by league, one of the most pop-ular sports in Australia, from the game's established anthorities and form his own Super League of international competition with Britain and New Zealand.

Spearheaded by Lachlan Murdoch, his son and apparent heir, and Ken Cowley, his most trust-ed Australian lieutenant, Murdoch's organisation poured more than A\$300m (£150m) into launching Super League, only to see it crushed by a Federal Court ruling last year that banned Super League from starting before the end of the decade.

The legal challenge came from the Australian Rughy League, the official body, sup-ported by Optus Vision, Foxtel's

rival cable TV company that had exclusive pay TV rights to rug-by league. Kerry Packer, Mur-doch's rival, is a partner in Optus. Vision. The ming would have left Funtel with no leading winter sport, and its future in doubt. Ten days ago, an appeal count delivered a slunning victory to

Mr Murdoch when it over-turned the earlier decision. ruled that "loyalty agreements" between players and the Australian Rughy League were null and void and allowed Super League to start from next year.

Although the official game ans a further appeal to the High Court, Murdoch is now in a perfect position to call the shots over the future of rugby



league. No one seriously be-lieves that Australia can statain two rival competitions and a merger, on Murdoch's terms. seems on the cards.

United face anxious wait for Pallister

Football

GLENN MOORE reports from Istanbul

Manchester United tonight extend their European odyssey into Asia as they embark upon the crucial stage of their Cham-

pions' League campaign.
They play the Turkish champions, Fenerbahce, who are based across the Bosphorus, the strait which divides European Turkey from its much larger Asian part. It is United's first vis-

it in 40 years in Europe.
Alex Ferguson, the United manager, believes the two matches with Fenerbahce will decide who qualifies from Group C behind the favourites, Juventus. The return is in a fortnight in Manchester.

Til be satisfied with a point," Ferguson said yesterday, "some-thing to take back to Old Trafford where our European record is fantastic."

The Turkish champions are aware of that. Having narrowdrawn away to the group's weakest team. Rapid Vienna. they have two points less than United. Vefa Kuguk, their vicepresident, admitted: "If we don't win we are finished.

Ferguson will not know his team until this morning when he discovers how a quintet of players have reacted to last night's training session, Gary Pallister, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Jordi Cruyff and David May are all doubts, with Pallister the main

If he is not fit, May and Ronnie Johnsen will continue the partnership which denied Liverpool. If he is, May may be unlucky although Johnsen could play in midfield.

Though fit, Eric Cantona is another concern. The Frenchman confessed that he had "forgotten he could play as badly" as he did against Liver-pool. "It has been a difficult week for him." Ferguson said.
"He's been training on his own
while the others [10 players]
have been on international duty or injured. It cannot have been easy for him, he is a player who needs to train." Ferguson added: "It doesn't worry

Nevertheless, it seems every time United play in Europe one writes "Cantona is yet to prove himself in Europe". Apart from one performance for Leeds against Stuttgart it remains

Of his younger players Ferawed by Juventus but they started to express themselves in the second half. I expect them to do that tomorrow. It was not a crime but they won't let me down again."

Fenerbahce, coached by Sebastian Lazaroni, once manager of Brazil, have their own mercurial talents, notably Emil Kostadinov. His last-minute goal denied France, and Cantona, a place in the 1994 World

Cup finals. He has been less effective since, flitting from club to club and, though he scored against Maccabi Tel Aviv in the preliminary round, he was then sent off. He returns from suspension tonight to partner the

prolific Bosnian, Elvir Bolic. In midfield is Jay-Jay Okocha, the gifted young Niger-ian, while his Olympic goldmedal winning team-mate. Uche Okechukwu, partners Denmark's Jes Hogh at the back. A clutch of Turkish internationals, including the promising goalkeeper Recber Rustu, make up the side.

An angry Hogh yesterday denied comments attributed to him in an English Sunday tabloid suggesting United, especially his international teammate Peter Schmeichel, had reason to fear Istanbul. "The reporter made it all up," Hogh

Indeed, contrary to reports elsewhere yesterday, United's reception in this city of minarets and mosques has been warm in been no problems at all," Ferguson said.

The match is a 26,000 sell-out with less than 300 of those being from Manchester. One unofficial group of 55 was expected in last night containing five known booligans. With the help of English police "spotters" Turkish officials were hoping to deport them immediately they arrived at the



Alex Ferguson fields questions yesterday as his team prepares for tonight's Champions' League game in Istanbul

Vega, controlled England's opening Euro 96 game with Switzerland. He also sent off Paul Gascoigne, deservedly, in

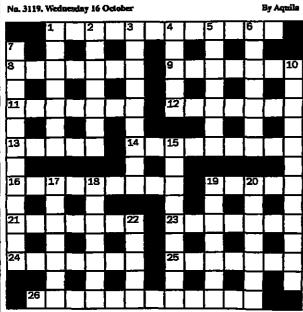
The referee, Manuel Diez Dortmund in last year's Champions' League. Though regarded as a showman in his native Spain he is not easily in-

While United have never played Fenerbahce before, their neighbours, City, have. Manchester City's only European Cup cutry, 28 years ago, ended

at Fenerbahce's hands. Aston-Villa and Arsenal have since knocked Fenerbahce out in Europe without conceding a goal. Tonight, on the pitch where

Galotasaray flag last season. United will be aiming to make their own mark.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Admirable type Harrow is turning out (12)
8 School dictionary in near-

ruin (7)
9 Love-plot thickening in the kitchen (7)
11 Northern climbing starting to develop (7) 12 Standing in Piccadilly, for example (7)

13 Lines often heard in Scotland? (5)
14 Show allergy to insects, using substances in chemical

tests (9) 16 Hard astern – it's a new way! (9)

19 Excited male sheep? (3,2)

21 Non-belligerent, with stick not in use? (7)

23 Formula One heartless in Turin, possibly (7)

24 Orkneys-designed town on the Hudson Pines (7)

the Hudson River (7)

25 As a poet, I am changing a point in speech (7)
26 Direct, intense sort of cre-

Papers higher in price? It's simply an exercise! (5-2) Never getting on, seeming-

Sonata air broadcast in hos-

pitals (9) County flags (5) Study a small part and apply again (7) Sacking an old soldier (7)

Photograph of Sheerness? (12) 10 London Pride is uniquely

charming! (4-2-6) 15 Radio-sets tuned for spacetravellers (9) 17 He turns his nose up a stewed prunes, right? (7)



18 Eddy joins cricket-side as a medic (7) Labour of carrying in har-

Teaching out in it, unusually Long Island's shorter yarn

> cide nearer the date. "I have always said that the classics, the World Champi-

Sunderland will carry on battling for success

Kevin Ball insists Sunderland are not worried about their disciplinary difficulties with Premiership referees despite an

early-season rash of red cards. Richard Ord became Sunderland's fourth sending-off of the season when he stamped on the England striker Nick Barmby during last night's 2-2 draw against Middlesbrough at

Ord, who was also dismissed at Derby last month, is in trouble with the Football Association and his manager, Peter Reid, with a three-match ban for violent conduct and a hefty club fine the likely outcome. Two other Sunderland play-

ers have also been sent off so far this season, but Ball makes no apology for the fierce commitment which he believes is Sunderland's greatest strength.

go out and battle away in every game," Ball said. "And if that means you're walking a bit of a tightrope with certain refer-

ees, so be it.

"Last year we were a committed side. That's what won us the championship. We went out in every game and we went out with the will to win. In this league you've got to combine that commitment with ability and I think we do that."

Ord's dismissal was Sunderland's third in two games with Martin Scott and Paul Stewart shown the red card during the 2-0 defeat at Arsenal, although Stewart's dismissal for handball has since been overturned, with the referee Paul Danson ad-

mitting he was mistaken. Reid has hinted that he will come down heavily on Ord, who had to sit out the match at High-"This side's got a tremendous bury because he was serving a will to win and we're going to suspension from his sending-off

at Derby, and now has another han looming

The final Wear-Tees derby at Roker Park ahead of Sunderland's move to a new stadium at Wearmouth provided an entertaining match for the Sky TV cameras and an answer to the critics who had accused Reid's goal-shy team of being negative. But a defiant Ball insists that

the "spoilers" tag has not both-ered the players, who are fully focused on Premiership survival. "We're not too fussed about whether people think we're entertaining or not," he said.
"Our aim is to go out and win games and get points, and if people don't think we're enter-taining that's up to them.

"We're not really bothered about the doubters. We're confident in our ability and we just go about doing our job. People can say and do what they

Tomba will miss the opening event of World Cup season

Alberto Tomba, returning to a favourite theme, was quoted vesterday as saying that the Alpine World Cup circuit

should be scrapped.

Italian newspapers also quoted the world and Olympic champion as saying that he would skip the season's open-ing race in Austria and might also decide against travelling to the United States but would deonships and the Olympics were enough," the daily Gazzetta dello Sport quoted Tomba as telling reporters at an awards ceremony in the northern town of Biella on Monday. Tomba, who said earlier this

year that he had considered retiring after winning two gold medals at the Sierra Nevada World Championships in February, has changed his training schedule and reduced his workload. "I will decide later whether to start the season in the United States or at Madonna di Campiglio," said Tomba, who has already committed

himself to competing in the 1997 World Championships in the Italian resort of Sestriere.

"I have done half as much training on snow as last year so I may delay my start as a result. I will do some trials at the end of the month to see how the motor is working." he said. "At the moment I should be about ready, I am probably faster but a bit less powerful."

The season starts in Solden, Austria on 26,27 October and

Austria on 26-27 October and then moves to Park City, Utah on 21 November. Madonna di Campiglio hosts a race on 17 December.



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